

**2008**

**Poetry**

*Nature's Dance*

**Clean Copy**

**Annotated Copy**

**Rationale**

*Fall Becomes Winter*

**Clean Copy**

**Annotated Copy**

**Rationale**

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**



## Nature's Dance

By :

*Oh, willow leaf,  
You have a slender body  
Like a ballerina dancing in the wind  
Wearing a green tutu with gold speckles sparkling in the sunlight  
Waltzing on a stage.*

*Oh, willow leaf,  
When the wind blows you twirl and spin gracefully  
In sync with your partners like a group of dancers floating in the air.  
You curve backward with a flexibility of a snake  
Or a gymnast performing a routine.*

*Oh willow leaf,  
You balance delicately on a small branch  
Like a ballerina balances on her toes as she goes en Pointe.  
Your edges are smooth like flower petals swaying with the wind..*

*Oh, willow leaf,  
Oh, dancer,  
I love watching your performance!*



# Ode

## Nature's Dance

By:

Insightful focused purpose throughout addressed through comparison of the willow leaf to a dancer.

Oh, willow leaf,

You have a slender body

insight Like a ballerina dancing in the wind - simile

imagery Wearing a green tutu with gold speckles sparkling in the sunlight - alliteration  
Waltzing on a stage.

White space creates stanzas that maintain unity in the poem.

Oh, willow leaf,

When the wind blows you twirl and spin gracefully analysis

Precise word choice

In sync with your partners like a group of dancers floating in the air.

You curve backward with a flexibility of a snake - insight

Or a gymnast performing a routine.

Oh willow leaf,

You balance delicately on a small branch -

rich and precise word choice creates imagery

simile Like a ballerina balances on her toes as she goes en Pointe.

Your edges are smooth like flower petals swaying with the wind..

strong verb

use of ellipsis indicates a long pause

Oh, willow leaf,

Oh, dancer,

I love watching your performance! reflection

Use of figurative language effectively communicates with audience



## Poetry Rationale

Grade: 4

Title: Nature's Dance

*This rationale was written based on the criteria in the document, "Applying the Criteria of Effective Writings in Poetry."*

### Content

#### **Audience/Purpose**

The writer establishes and maintains an authentic and insightful purpose by creating an ode to a willow leaf. The comparison of the willow leaf to a dancer shows an extraordinary perception of the ordinary. The title supports the essence of the poem. The writer uses poetic devices to create an appropriate voice that leaves the reader with a sensory image of graceful movement.

#### **Idea Development/ Support**

The writer uses insight to show depth of idea development by providing specific comparisons of the willow tree to a dancer ("like a ballerina dancing in the wind," "you twirl and spin gracefully," "waltzing on stage"). Sensory details create imagery that makes the audience feel the movement of the willow leaf.

### Structure

#### **Organization**

The use of white space arranges the poem into stanzas that effectively maintains the unity of the poem.

#### **Sentences**

The writer uses line breaks to create a rhythm within the poem.

### Conventions

#### **Language**

The writer makes language choices that have a strong impact upon the reader. The use of figurative language, descriptive language, and strong verbs enhance the poem's purpose.

#### **Correctness**

The writer uses correct ending punctuation, capitalization, and spelling relative to the length and complexity of the poem.



## Fall Becomes Winter

When fall becomes winter  
Red, orange, and golden leaves  
Are falling to the ground.  
I hear them go crunch  
I hear them go munch  
From people rushing to town.

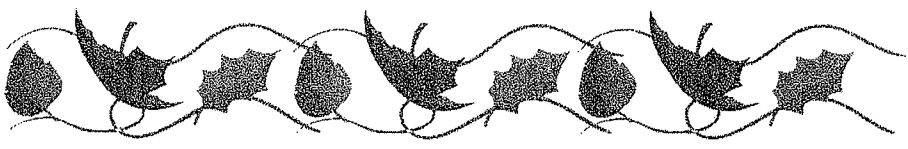
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~~In fall the decorated table has~~  
Warm Thanksgiving turkey  
Surrounded with steamy gravy,  
Buttery corn-on-the-cob  
Ready to devour cherry pie.

The stars are shining above  
The crowded football fields  
Where bundled fans are howling,  
It is getting bitter cold  
As the night begins to unfold.

As fall becomes winter  
The glittery white frost  
Collects on the window sill  
And on the trees with branches  
Giving them a *chill*.





### Fall Becomes Winter

title attempts focused purpose

effective transition

Stanzas throughout provide logical organization

When fall becomes winter  
 Red, orange, and golden leaves  
 Are falling to the ground.  
 I hear them go crunch  
 I hear them go munch  
 From people rushing to town.

onomatopoeia  
lacks punctuation

White space provides organization for stanzas

In fall the decorated table has  
 Warm Thanksgiving turkey  
 Surrounded with steamy gravy,  
 Buttery corn-on-the-cob  
 Ready to devour cherry pie.

loses focus on purpose

The stars are shining above  
 The crowded football fields  
 Where bundled fans are howling,  
 It is getting bitter cold  
 As the night begins to unfold.

- alliteration  
- specific word choice creates imagery  
passage of time supports purpose of capturing a moment

last stanza  
attempts to create  
an image of the  
moment when  
fall has  
become winter

As fall becomes winter  
The glittery white frost  
Collects on the window sill  
And on the trees with branches  
Giving them a *chill*.

attempts  
to use  
rhyme



## Poetry Rationale

Grade: 4

Title: Fall Becomes Winter

*This rationale was written based on the criteria in the document, "Applying the Criteria of Effective Writings in Poetry."*

### Content

#### Audience/Purpose

Attempts a focused purpose of capturing the moment when fall becomes winter. This is first seen in the title and first stanza. A lapse in focus occurs in the second stanza where the focus shifts to a Thanksgiving table rather than a passage of time. A return to the purpose is seen in the third and final stanza ("As night begins to unfold"). The writer indicates some awareness of audience needs by using sensory details and poetic devices (onomatopoeia, use of rhyme, use of stanzas and line breaks).

#### Idea Development/ Support

Demonstrates some idea development, but includes irrelevant details when describing a decorative Thanksgiving table. The writer uses poetic devices (similes, alliteration, onomatopoeia) to attempt to create an image. The writer uses sensory details without being formulaic.

### Structure

#### Organization

The use of five line stanzas indicates logical organization. A lapse in coherence occurs due to the abrupt ending. Use of white space and line breaks are effective transitions.

#### Sentences

The variety and control of sentence structure provides a natural rhythm for the reader.

### Conventions

#### Language

The writer demonstrates control of grammar by using present tense to indicate the progression of time. The word choice is acceptable and descriptive (bitter cold, bundled fans, glittering white frost).

#### Correctness

There is control of correctness relative to complexity. There are a few punctuation errors.