

Spring Pools

These pools that, though, in forests, still reflect
The total sky almost without defect,
And like the flowers beside them chill and shiver,
Will like the flowers beside them soon be gone,
And yet not out by any brook or river,
But up by roots to bring dark foliage on.
The trees that have it in their pent-up buds
To darken nature and be summer woods -
Let them think twice before they use their powers
To blot out and drink up and sweep away
These flowery waters and these watery flowers
From snow that melted only yesterday.

Robert Frost

Put the rhyme scheme to the right of the lines.

Indicate the rhythm of any two consecutive lines of the poem by indicating which syllables in the line are stressed (/) and which are unstressed () over the words in the lines.

Give an example from this poem of personification.

What time of year is it? _____

What is the poet asking the trees to do?

Why is the poet asking this?

Do you think that the trees will listen to the poet? Why?

Does the poet enjoy the time of year he's writing about? What is the basis for your answer?

What makes it possible for the pools to reflect the sky though they are in the woods?

What does the poet think will happen to the pools?

What is the relationship between the trees and the pools?

There are lots of examples of repetition in this poem. Why do you think the poet used this technique? What example of repetition do you think is the most interesting and why?

Frost is a famous poet and much of his most famous poetry is about nature. What do you think the poet's attitude towards nature is in this poem? Are there aspects of nature that he seems to like more than others? If so what aspects does he like? What aspects does he not like?
