

Season Songs is a collection of poetry written for younger readers. Vividly sensual, much of the writing is a celebration of the Goddess Nature, typified by freedom and expansiveness.

‘The River in March’

Language investigation

1. The key technique used throughout the poem is personification. How is the river personified in the first verse? Include details in your answer.
2. In ‘real life’, what is the ‘deep choir’?
3. How do the ‘lofty clouds’ go on ‘their holiday’?
4. Reading through the poem, write down its chronology. (Turn it into real or natural time. What is actually happening?)
5. Why do you think Hughes chose March as the time to set his poem?
6. What is the key technique, besides personification, used to ‘set the scenes’? (Consider the chronology of the poem.)
7. Choose a word, phrase, line or image/set of images that you find perplexing. What don’t you understand?
8. Do the same as above, but this time choose an image you like and explain why you like it.
9. This poem was aimed at a younger audience; is this apparent? Is the poem significantly more accessible than other poems you have studied? Explain why/why not.
10. Do you need any specialist or background knowledge in order to appreciate this poem fully? If you have answered ‘yes’, explain why and where.