

# Pleasant sounds

These questions will help you practise:

- ★ retrieving and recording information
- ★ identifying and explaining how language choices enhance meaning
- ★ summarising main ideas.

The rustling of leaves under the feet in woods and under hedges;

The crumping of **cat-ice** and snow down wood-rides narrow lanes, and every street causeway;

Rustling through a wood or rather rushing, while the wind **halloos** in the oak-top like thunder;

The rustle of birds' wings startled from their nests or flying unseen into the bushes;

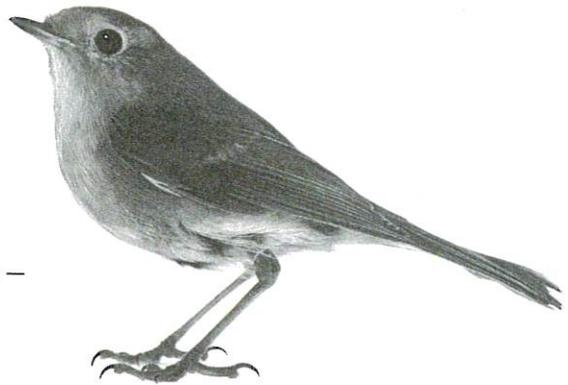
The whizzing of larger birds overhead in a wood, such as crows, **puddocks**, buzzards;

The trample of robins and woodlarks on the brown leaves, and the patter of squirrels on the green moss;

The fall of an acorn on the ground, the pattering of nuts on the hazel branches as they fall from ripeness;

The flirt of the groundlark's wing from the **stubbles** – how sweet such pictures on dewy mornings, when the dew flashes from its brown feathers!

John Clare



## Glossary

- **cat-ice** thin ice with no water beneath
- **halloos** greetings
- **puddocks** large bird
- **stubbles** stalks of hay on a field after harvesting

1 What do the robins and woodlark trample on in the poem?

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1  
(1 mark)

2 a) The writer has used onomatopoeia in the poem.  
**Find and copy one** example.

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2a  
(1 mark)

b) How is this effective in the poem?

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2b  
(1 mark)

3 **Find and copy** an example of alliteration in the poem.

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3  
(1 mark)

4 a) **Find and copy** the simile in the poem.

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4a  
(1 mark)

b) Explain the effect of the simile.

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4b  
(1 mark)

5 Write a title for this poem.

Explain why you have chosen this title, referring to the text in your answer.

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5  
(3 marks)