

Summer's Song

Twilight song moves me to waltz
under starlit sky and moon,
drifting and dancing
in mystical moonlit interludes,
awaiting summer's kiss upon my skin.
And now you may find me,
back along the beach somewhere,
where swimmers bathe waist deep
among the foaming white caps,
and fisherman cast their nets upon the surf.
I'll watch, long into the night,
as the tanker ships head out
along the gulf horizon,
and friends parade down the coastline,
holding hands in the soft sea breeze.

© Kiesha Shepard

It often seems only
'neath cover of dark
that the night conducts
its bacchanalian lark
when sky fire flashes
to kettle drum rolls
as a frenzied deluge
fills up all gaping holes
pounding the earth
with its hard satyr hooves
as they caper and prance
on verandas and rooves;

D.E. Sievers

Helpful vocabulary:

Bacchanalian – a party that has got out of control

Satyr – mythical animal, half human and half goat/horse

Read the poems about Summer time. Answer the following questions:

1. What does the author mean by “foaming white caps”?

☐ Heads bobbing around

☐ Froth on waves

☐ Ghosts

☐ Snow falling

2. The second poem is about the weather. Explain what the author is describing with these phrases:

Sky fire flashes _____

Kettle drum rolls _____

Frenzied deluge _____

3. What can you tell about the raindrops from the words ‘caper’ and ‘prance’?

4. Which of these would be the most appropriate title for the second poem?

☐ Summer Sunshine

☐ Summer Delights

☐ Thunder and Lightning

☐ Weather of Chaos

Explain your choice:

5. Both of these poems are about summer. Can you find any other similarities between the settings of the poems?

7. Think about your own experiences with Summer. Create a bank of things related to Summer, then try coming up with figurative language to describe it:

e.g. the Sun	A rolling Catherine wheel

Create your own poem about Summer experiences that mean something to you:

Answers:

1. Froth on waves
2. Sky fire flashes – lightning
Kettle drum rolls – thunder
Frenzied deluge – (heavy) rainfall
3. Answers like: They are moving quickly
They are bouncing off things
They move erratically
4. Weather of chaos – the author describes chaotic weather and uses vocabulary to show the chaotic mood
Allow: Thunder and Lightning – explanation about that being the content of the poem
Cannot be Summer sunshine (poem is set at night) or Summer delights (author is not describing weather in a positive way)
5. Both set at night
6. Answers like: The first poet enjoys the Summer night. Supported by quotes like: “moves me to waltz” “dancing” “mystical” “summer’s kiss” “parade” “soft sea breeze”
The second poet does not enjoy the weather in Summer. Supported by quotes like: “bacchanalian” “fire flashes” “drum rolls” “frenzied deluge” “pounding” “satyr hooves”