

Reading Strategies Checklist:

- Questions
- Connections
- Inferences
- Feelings/tone
- Evaluate Writer's Technique

**“The Child Who Walked Backwards”
by Lorna Crozier**

**My next door neighbour tells me
her child runs into things.
Cupboard corners and doorknobs
have pounded their shapes
into his face. She says
he is bothered by dreams,
rises in sleep from his bed
to steal through the halls
and plummet like a wounded bird
down the flight of stairs.**

**This child who climbed my maple
with the sureness of a cat,
trips in his room, cracks
his skull on the bedpost,
smacks his cheeks on the floor.
When I ask about the burns
on the back of his knee,
his mother tells me
he walks backwards
into fireplace grates
or sits and stares at flames
while sparks burn stars in his skin.**

**Other children write their names
on the casts that hold
his small bones.
His mother tells me
he runs into things,
walks backwards,
breaks his leg
while she lies
sleeping.**

Tips for complete responses:

Questions: Remember to speculate answers to your questions. Explain why you think this way (your theory to a question is often an inference.)

Infer: What things can assume that the writer does not directly say? What **evidence** can you give for this assumption? Explain your inferences fully.

Feel: The writer chooses her words carefully to evoke certain feelings or tones throughout the poem. Highlight a portion of the poem and **explain** what feeling or tone is created by those lines. Explain your thinking fully.

Connections: Make connections that bring more understanding to what you're reading. (Relevant connections.) Explain how your connection helps you understand the poem better.

Evaluate Technique: What are some of the techniques that the writer uses to get her point across? Why would the writer choose to use these techniques? (In other words, what specific **effect or meaning** do these techniques create?)

Reading Strategies Marking Rubric

	Below Appropriate 0% 30% 50%	Appropriate Minus 60% 65%	Appropriate 70% 80%	Appropriate Plus 85% 95%	Strong (100%)
Questions	Questions are vague or irrelevant. No attempt to answer questions.	Questions are simple. Little attempt to answer questions.	Questions are logical. Begins to theorize answers to own questions.	Questions are logical with some depth. Theorizes logical answers to own questions.	Questions show depth and insight. Consistently forms insightful theories to questions to gain more understanding of text.
Infer	Makes simple, unsupported inferences. May be illogical.	Makes reasonable inferences with some supported evidence. Literal or basic inferences.	Makes and supports logical inferences with evidence.	Makes and supports logical inferences with specific evidence. Some insightful inferences.	Makes and supports logical, insightful inferences with specific, convincing evidence from both the text and the reader's prior knowledge.
Connect	Lacks understanding about how to make a connection.	Connections are quite surface level and literal, and don't necessarily bring more understanding to the photo.	Begins to make connections that bring more understanding to the photo.	Makes connections that bring more understanding to the photo.	Consistently makes insightful connections that bring more understanding to the photo.
Feeling/Tone	Makes unsupported statements about tone/feeling conveyed in the poem.	Reasonable assessment of the tone/feeling conveyed by the poem. Support may be vague or unexplained.	Makes logical assessments about the tone/feeling conveyed in the poem with some relevant support or explanation.	Makes logical assessments about the tone/feeling conveyed in the poem, supported by relevant quotes and explanation.	Makes logical assessments about the tone/feeling conveyed in the poem, supported by relevant quotes and insightful explanation.
Evaluate Technique	Has difficulty identifying techniques and their effects/meaning.	Begins to identify writer's techniques but may not be able to explain the effect or purpose of the technique.	Identifies writer's techniques and begins to explain the effect and purpose of those techniques.	Identifies writer's techniques and effectively explains the effect and purpose of those techniques.	Skillfully identifies and explains the writer's use of various techniques and clearly explains the effect and purpose of those techniques.
Feedback					