

**Poetry Collection:** Eleanor Farjeon, Walter de la Mare, Georgia Douglas Johnson  
**Reading: Preview to Determine Meanings From Context**

Poetry often contains unusual words with which you may not be familiar. When you read a poem, it is a good idea to **preview** it, or examine it in advance, to identify any unfamiliar words. Then, as you read the poem more closely, look for clues in the **context** that can help you determine the meanings of these words. The **context** consists of the other words and phrases that surround a particular word. The following chart shows common types of context clues and an example of each. In the examples, the possibly unfamiliar words are underlined, and the context clues are in italics.

Clue	<b>Synonym/Definition:</b> words that mean the same as the unfamiliar word
Example	Knowing the importance of <i>exercise</i> , she does <u>calisthenics</u> every day.
Clue	<b>Antonym/Contrast:</b> words that mean the opposite of the unfamiliar word
Example	She does <u>calisthenics</u> every day, <i>but her brother is a couch potato.</i>
Clue	<b>Explanation:</b> words that give more information about the unfamiliar word
Example	<u>Calisthenics</u> <i>can improve your muscle tone and breathing.</i>
Clue	<b>Example:</b> a word or words that illustrate the unfamiliar word
Example	<u>Calisthenics</u> include <i>pushups and situps.</i>
Clue	<b>Sentence Role:</b> structural clue that indicates the unfamiliar word's part of speech
Example	Joanna <i>does</i> <u>calisthenics</u> every morning. [clearly a noun; seems to be an activity]

**DIRECTIONS:** Answer these questions about words in the three poems in this collection.

1. What synonym later in the poem shows the meaning of *git* in line 11 of "Cat!"? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. A. In lines 26–27 of "Cat!" what does the context suggest that a *sycamore* is?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 B. What other word is a clue to the meaning of *sycamore*? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. In line 3 of "Silver," what synonym shows the meaning of *peers*? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
4. In lines 5–6 of "Your World," what words give an explanation of *horizon*? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
5. A. Looking at the role of *reaches* in line 11, what part of speech is it? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 B. From the context, what do you think *reaches* means here? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_