



Oide

Tacú leis an bhFoghlaim
Ghairmiúil i measc Ceannairí
Scoile agus Múinteoirí

Supporting the Professional
Learning of School Leaders
and Teachers



Winter poems to consider

Snow Day
Winter Dusk
Spellbound
Good Hours
Horses
Winter: My Secret
December
First Sight
Mirror in February
Winter Solstice
Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind
Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening
On Winter's Margin
Magellanic Penguin
When You Are Old
The Land of Long Shadows
Exposure
Lines for Winter
Winter Song
Winter Morning Poem

Billy Collins
Walter de La Mare
Emily Brontë
Robert Frost
Pablo Neruda
Christina Rossetti
Carol Ann Duffy
Philip Larkin
Thomas Kinsella
Catherine Ann Cullen
William Shakespeare
Robert Frost
Mary Oliver
Pablo Neruda
W.B. Yeats
Ruth Hill
Seamus Heaney
Mark Strand
Katherine Mansfield
Ogden Nash





Sample Winter poem

Snow Day

Today we woke up to a revolution of snow,
its white flag waving over everything,
the landscape vanished,
not a single mouse to punctuate the blankness,
and beyond these windows

the government buildings smothered,
schools and libraries buried, the post office lost
under the noiseless drift,
the paths of trains softly blocked,
the world fallen under this falling.

In a while, I will put on some boots
and step out like someone walking in water,
and the dog will porpoise through the drifts,
and I will shake a laden branch
sending a cold shower down on us both.

But for now I am a willing prisoner in this house,
a sympathizer with the anarchic cause of snow.
I will make a pot of tea
and listen to the plastic radio on the counter,
as glad as anyone to hear the news

that the Kiddie Corner School is closed,
the Ding-Dong School, closed.
the All Aboard Children's School, closed,
the Hi-Ho Nursery School, closed,
along with—some will be delighted to hear—

the Toadstool School, the Little School,
Little Sparrows Nursery School,
Little Stars Pre-School, Peas-and-Carrots Day School
the Tom Thumb Child Center, all closed,
and—clap your hands—the Peanuts Play School.

So this is where the children hide all day,
These are the nests where they letter and draw,
where they put on their bright miniature jackets,
all darting and climbing and sliding,
all but the few girls whispering by the fence.








And now I am listening hard
in the grandiose silence of the snow,
trying to hear what those three girls are plotting,
what riot is afoot,
which small queen is about to be brought down.

Billy Collins





Considerations when responding to texts

Setting 	Based on the text, what can you tell about where the action takes place? Comment on the opening of the piece. How does it begin? Do you like it? Does it grab your attention?
Narration 	From what viewpoint is the text told? Is it first or third person?
Characterisation 	Identify each character (people, animals etc) What are your impressions of each character? Find evidence in the extract to support your points.
Dialogue 	Is there dialogue? Examine the conversations/dialogue. How would you describe these? Support your answer with evidence.
Mood/Atmosphere 	What kind of mood or atmosphere is evident? What shapes your impression of this mood/atmosphere? Pick out examples and explain.
Descriptive Language 	Can you find examples of figurative language? For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• similes (comparisons using 'like' or 'as')• metaphors (direct comparisons)• Imagery• Personification• Symbolism What impact do these have on you?
Storytelling / Genre 	Having read this text, could you write a sequel or change the ending? Do you like the title of the piece? Could you suggest an alternative title? What impact did this text have on you? Could you relate to it?