

There's a Fire in the Forest

There's a fire in the forest!

The creatures are fleeing

The flames close behind

With the wind driving onward.

From underbrush up to

The high moving tree-tops

The fire's surging forward.

There's a fire in the forest;

The whole woods are burning.

The whole world is burning!

The creatures are seeking

The safety of streams

Beyond the hot burning.

The creatures are fleeing;

They are labouring, straining

To reach the cool river

They know just beyond them,

To escape the fierce burning,

To reach the cool stream

For which they are yearning.

by W.W.E. Ross

1. In the poem, what are the forest animals:

(a) escaping from?

1 mark

(b) looking for?

1 mark

2. Give **two** verbs in the poem that suggest movement.

1. _____

2. _____

1 mark

3. What is the main idea of the **second verse** of the poem?

Tick **one**.

the speed and heat of the fire

the size and depth of the river

the fear and urgency of the animals

the thirst and hunger of the animals

1 mark

4. Look at verse 2.

Find and **copy two** words that show that the creatures are working hard.

1. _____

2. _____

1 mark

Mark schemes

1. Award **1 mark** for each of the following responses:

(a) fire / flames / fierce burning;

1 mark

(b) *water / stream / safety / sanctuary / shelter.*

Do not accept: a place to hide / a new place to live.

1 mark

2. Award **1 mark** for two words from the following list:

(are) fleeing

reach

surging

(are) labouring

(are) seeking

straining

driving

escape

Do not accept: *moving* or complete lines or phrases from the poem.

1 mark

3. Award **1 mark** if the correct box has been ticked.

the speed and heat of the fire

the size and depth of the river

the fear and urgency of the animals

the thirst and hunger of the animals

1 mark

4. Award 1 mark for both responses.

• labouring

• straining

1 mark