Name:

The Base Stealer Close Read

Read the poem completely before answering the questions in the right column.

The Buse Stealer by Hobert Hallels	
<u>Poised</u> between going on and back, pulled	
Both ways <u>taut</u> like a tight-rope walker,	
Fingertips pointing the opposites,	
Now bouncing tiptoe like a dropped ball,	
Or a kid skipping rope, come on, come on!	5
Running a scattering of steps sidewise,	
How he teeters, skitters, tingles, teases,	
<u>Taunts</u> them, hovers like an <u>ecstatic</u> bird,	
He's only flirting, crowd him, crowd him,	
Delicate, delicate, delicate – Now!	10

The Base Stealer by Robert Francis

Read the poem before you answer these questions.

- 1. Who is the poem written about? (Hint: Not a specific person) What is the subject of the poem doing?
- 2. What does **poised** mean?
- 3. What does taut mean?
- 4. What is being compared in the first simile? Why did the poet use this example?
- 5. What is being compared in the second simile?
- 6. What sound device is used in line 6? Which words are used to illustrate this?
- 7. There are two sound devices used in line 7. What are they? Which words are used to illustrate them? (Hint: they are the same words for both sound device.)
- 8. List a word from the poem that is an example of onomatopoeia. Include line number.
- 9. What does taunts mean?
- 10. Who does "them" refer to in line 8?
- 11. What does ecstatic mean?
- 12. What is being compared in the third simile?
- 13. Why do you think the poet uses repetition and an exclamation point in line 5 and line 10?
- 14. What emotion(s) do you think the subject of the poem is experiencing? What evidence led you to this conclusion?
- 15. What is the tone of the poem? (Hint: look at your answer to #14.)

Now, think of an activity about which you are passionate. You will write your own poem modeled after "The Base Stealer". You will model the <u>free verse format</u> , <u>ten lines</u> , include (3) similes. Pay attention to the <u>list of</u>					
<u>interesting verbs</u> in line 7. Use a thesaurus, if necessary. Be creative and let me be able to "feel" the same					
excitement you do when you are participating in your favorite activity. Give your poem a title.					
excitement you do when you are participating in your lavorite activity. Give your poem a title.					
					