

Name: _____

The Base Stealer Close Read

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

<p>The Base Stealer by Robert Francis</p> <p>Poised between going on and back, pulled</p> <p>Both ways taut like a tight-rope walker,</p> <p>Fingertips pointing the opposites,</p> <p>Now bouncing tiptoe like a dropped ball,</p> <p>Or a kid skipping rope, come on, come on! 5</p> <p>Running a scattering of steps sidewise,</p> <p>How he teeters, skitters, tingles, teases,</p> <p>Taunts them, hovers like an ecstatic bird,</p> <p>He's only flirting, crowd him, crowd him,</p> <p>Delicate, delicate, delicate, delicate – Now! 10</p>	<p>Read the poem before you answer these questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Who is the poem written about? (<i>Hint: Not a specific person</i>) 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? (<i>Hint: they are the same words for both sound device.</i>)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? (<i>Hint: look at your answer to #14.</i>)
---	---

