

Read. Think. Explain.

In trying to understand a poem, it's important to read it carefully and thoughtfully by focusing on the words the poet chose *and* by thinking about what the images in the poem represent. In this activity, you'll answer a series of questions about J. Patrick Lewis's "A Tomcat Is" in order to grasp the poem's full meaning.

Directions: Answer the questions below, using information and details from the poem to back up your ideas.

1. What does each line of this poem do? Why do you think the poet chose to do this?

2. The poet describes the cat's feet as "needle-point claws" and "marshmallow paws." What does this tell you about them?

3. What could you conclude about how the author feels about tomcats?

4. How does the illustration complement the poem? Do you like artist Chris Raschka's style?
