

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Catch

Two boys uncoached are tossing a poem together,
Overhand, underhand, backhand, sleight of hand, everyhand,
Teasing with attitudes, latitudes, interludes, altitudes,
High, make him fly off the ground for it, low, make him stoop,
Make him scoop it up, make him as-almost-as possible miss it, (5)
Fast, let him sting from it, now, now fool him slowly,
Anything, everything tricky, risky, nonchalant,
Anything under the sun to outwit the prosy,
Over the tree and the long sweet cadence down,
Over his head, make him scramble to pick up the meaning, (10)
And now, like a posy, a pretty one plump in his hands.

Robert Francis

1. How many lines? _____
2. How many verses? _____
3. What is the poem's rhythm? _____
4. The poem is an **extended metaphor** since the **entire** poem is comparing two topics. What two topics are being compared? _____ and _____.
5. Find a simile: _____

6. Find a line with good alliteration: _____
7. What does "prosy" mean in line 8? _____
8. What does "posy" mean in line 11? _____
9. Where is repetition used effectively? _____
10. So how is playing catch like a poet creating a poem? _____

