

## The Base Stealer

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Poised between going on and back, pulled (1)  
Both ways taut like a tightrope-walker,  
Fingertips pointing the opposites, (3)  
Now bouncing tiptoe like a dropped ball  
Or a kid skipping rope, come on, come on,  
Running a scattering of steps sidewise, (6)  
How he teeters, skitters, tingles, teases,  
Taunts them, hovers like an ecstatic bird,  
He's only flirting, crowd him, crowd him,  
Delicate, delicate, delicate, delicate --now! (10)

*taut – to be pulled tight; tense*

*taunt – to challenge; provoke*

1. What do you notice about the structure of the poem? Identify 2 rules of poetry that are used.

A \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

2. How many lines in the poem? \_\_\_\_\_ How many verses? (HINT – look for end punctuation) \_\_\_\_\_

3. How many run-on lines? \_\_\_\_\_ How many end-stopped lines? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the subject of the poem? \_\_\_\_\_

5. The first four lines of the poem use \_\_\_\_\_ as figurative language.

6. Line 6: *Running a scattering of steps sidewise*, uses \_\_\_\_\_ as a figurative language device.

7. Line 7: *How he teeters, skitters, tingles, teases*, uses both alliteration and \_\_\_\_\_ to emphasize the “t” sound.

8. Does the poem rhyme? \_\_\_\_\_ What is the poem’s rhythm? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What figurative language device helps to build the suspense in the poem? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Why did the poet make the poem as one verse? \_\_\_\_\_

11. What happens to the base stealer at the end of the poem? \_\_\_\_\_