

“Travelling Through the Dark” Questions

1. What is the speaker in “Travelling Through the Dark” doing as the poem begins?
2. Why do you think Stafford chose a deer for this poem? Why not a bear or a skunk or a cat? How would the poem change if there was a different animal dead by the side of the road?
3. Imagery is words that stimulate pictures in the reader’s mind that appeal to any of the senses – sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. Which of the poet’s lines do you think contain effective imagery? Why?
4. What object is being personified in the poem? Copy the line below. How does this use of personification contrast with the description of the deer?
5. State precisely the speaker's dilemma. What does the speaker decide to do? Why?
6. What is the significance of the title? What symbolic meaning does it have?