



Ice Can Scream

Ice can call,
Ice can yell
Secrets no one
Else can tell.

Ice can yell,
Ice can howl,
Naming winter's
Weather foul.

Ice can howl,
Ice can wail,
Counting up
Each storm and gale.

Ice can wail,
Ice can shriek
Till the land
Is winter-bleak.

Ice can shriek,
Ice can scream
Straight across
The autumn dream.

Ice can scream,
Ice can shout:
Winter in
And autumn out.

*From Once Upon Ice and Other
Frozen Poems selected by Jane Yolen.
Published by Boyds Mills Press, 1997.*



Dear Parents

Read this dramatic poem about ice out loud with your child. Then ask your child to read it out loud alone as you listen. Reading a poem many times is enjoyable and helps us appreciate its sound, rhythm, and meaning. You may want to discuss how the poet treats the ice like a person, having it do things humans can do, such as yell. This technique is called personification. Most of all, enjoy the strong language and rhythm of the poem.

TIP OF THE WEEK

Students often learn that verbs are action words, and they think of *running*, *jumping*, and *screaming* as action. To help them extend their understanding of verbs, have students pick out the action words from the poem and then list some that the poet did not use. This is a far more effective way of teaching parts of speech than simply having students complete worksheets.

The Questions

Read the poem a third time. List all of the verbs—action words—that you can find. Can you think of some you would use that the poet did not? Add them to your list.

scream

shout

Bonus: Can you find a pattern that the verbs follow in the poem from stanza to stanza?

We have completed this assignment together.

Child's Signature

Parent's Signature