

Name: _____ Date: _____

Discussion Prompts

The Runaway



by Robert Frost

Here are questions and statements to discuss with your partner. Use details and inferences from the poem to support your ideas. You may jot down notes on this page to remind you of your discussion.

1. What words describe the poet's feelings toward what he sees? Discuss the words with your partner, list them in your notebook, and jot down the emotions they reflect.
2. What kind of a horse is a Morgan? Find out more about Morgan horses from the Internet or a book. Share this information with your partner and/or the class.
3. Why is the colt running away? Cite details from the text to support your responses.
4. Do you think the poet intends the last three lines only for the mother of the colt? Explain your answer.
5. In an allegory, characters and events represent or symbolize abstract ideas. Can this poem be read as an allegory? Take a position and argue for it clearly, explaining the abstract meaning the poem represents or why the poem cannot be read as an allegory.
6. Can you list several strong verbs and discuss the images each one paints?
7. Why is the oxymoron "miniature thunder" effective?

Choose two words or phrases and discuss their denotative and connotative meanings and how each relates to the poem's theme.

WRITTEN RESPONSE

Choose one discussion prompt to write about in your notebook. Head a new page with the title and author of the poem. Write the prompt you chose below that, and then record notes that relate to the prompt: words and phrases from the poem, your ideas and feelings about the poem, things you noticed about the language and sounds of the poem, and so on. Then use your notes to write an informal paragraph in response to the prompt.