

Walking on the High Wire

- 4 Each step I take,
8 I shiver and shake.
13 My knees begin to quake.
19 No tiny slip can I make.
24 Walking on the high wire.
28 Slowly, forward I go.
33 I hear cheers from below.
39 With each tiny step I know,
47 I will be the star of the show.
52 Walking on the high wire.
56 My heart beats fast.
61 How long can this last?
67 A few more steps go past.
74 I feel the hopes of the cast.
79 Walking on the high wire.
84 I am not sure how
89 but I've made it now.
94 Wiping sweat from my brow,
99 I take a satisfied bow.
104 Walking on the high wire...
109 tomorrow could be ever higher.



Questions



1. What does the performer do when she reaches the end of the wire?



2. **My knees begin to quake.**
What does the word 'quake' mean?



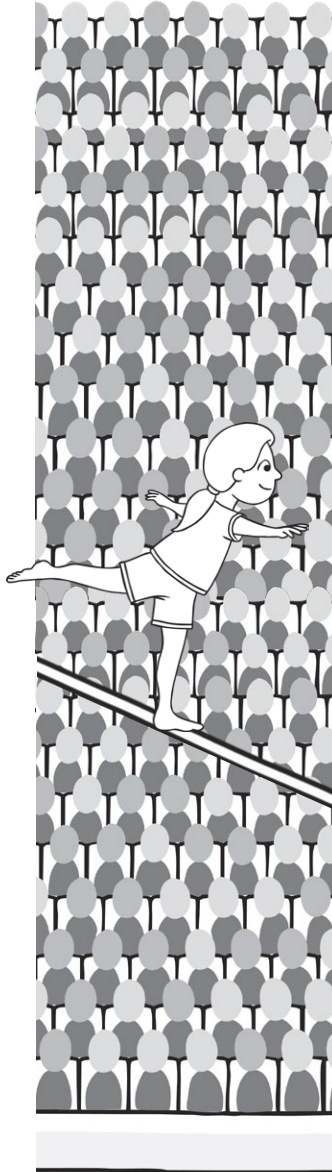
3. How does the high wire performer feel as she walks along the wire?



4. How do you think the poet will feel tomorrow?

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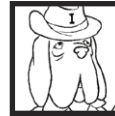
Answers



1. What does the performer do when she reaches the end of the wire?
Accept either of the following: the performer wipes sweat from her brow; the performer takes a satisfied bow.



2. **My knees begin to quake.**
What does the word 'quake' mean?
Quake means to shake or tremble.



3. How does the high wire performer feel as she walks along the wire?
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the high wire performer feels nervous because the poem says her heart is beating fast.



4. How do you think the poet will feel tomorrow?
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think she will still feel nervous because it is a risky trick and tomorrow she could be even higher up.