

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## April

By Bobbi Katz  
2006

*Bobbi Katz (born 1933) is an accomplished poet who specializes in children's literature. In this poem, a speaker describes the springtime. As you read, takes notes on the words and phrases that the speaker uses to describe the spring.*

- [1] April is  
when the earth  
parades in a green so brand-new  
you can almost hear it playing a tune,  
[5] turning tight buds  
of forsythia<sup>1</sup> bushes  
into tiny yellow trumpets,  
waking the dozing daffodils.<sup>2</sup>  
And  
[10] April is  
when your blue slicker<sup>3</sup>  
collects beads  
of misty drizzle  
and the walk to Grandma's house  
[15] is a skip-splash-dance!  
And  
when you get there  
Grandma  
tells you how each spring  
[20] she falls in love with the world  
all over again—  
and you understand.



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1. a blooming shrub
2. a yellow flower
3. a rain coat

## Text-Dependent Questions

**Directions:** For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which sentence best describes the theme of the poem?
  - A. Spring is the only season that brings people true happiness.
  - B. Noticing nature's beauty can bring people happiness.
  - C. Children can appreciate the beauty of a spring day better than adults.
  - D. Nothing can ruin a perfect day.
  
2. PART B: Which lines from the poem best support the answer to Part A?
  - A. "April is / when the earth / parades in a green" (Lines 1-3)
  - B. "when your blue slicker / collects beads / of misty drizzle" (Lines 11-13)
  - C. "And / when you get there / Grandma / tells you" (Lines 16-19)
  - D. "each spring / she falls in love with the world" (Lines 19-20)
  
3. PART A: Based on lines 1-4, what does the quote "parades in a green so brand-new / you can almost hear it playing a tune" mean?
  - A. With the change of season, the earth comes alive with new activity and color.
  - B. When the seasons change, people are happier and kinder.
  - C. With the change of season, animals come out of hiding to enjoy the sun.
  - D. When the seasons change, people celebrate with a big parade.
  
4. PART B: Which lines from elsewhere in the poem best support the answer to Part A?
  - A. "tight buds / ...into tiny yellow trumpets, / waking the dozing daffodils." (Lines 5-8)
  - B. "when your blue slicker / collects beads" (Lines 11-12)
  - C. "and the walk to Grandma's house / is a skip-splash-dance!" (Lines 14-15)
  - D. "all over again— / and you understand." (Lines 21-22)
  
5. How does the speaker's point of view about spring compare to their grandmother's?

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## Discussion Questions

**Directions: Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.**

1. In this poem, the speaker and their grandmother find beauty and joy in nature. In your experience, how can nature bring people happiness? Cite examples from the text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.
2. In the poem, the speaker and their grandmother are moved by the simple change in seasons. How can simple experiences bring people joy? Cite examples from the text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.