What are the most important ideas about cougars?

Have you ever wondered how a cat uses its keen eyesight and hearing for detecting mice? Have you ever wished you could be a cat, napping in perfect contentment? From ferocious tigers to timid tabbies, cats have always fascinated people. The reasons may vary from person to person and culture to culture.

There are few animals that have inspired poets as much as cats. As you read the following poems, notice how the poet(s) have tried to capture the particular way cats move, their mysterious nature, and their entertaining antics.

**Tiger**

by Valerie Worth

The tiger

Has swallowed

A black sun,

In his cold

Cage he

Carries it still:

Black flames

Flicker through

His fur,

Black rays roar

From the centers

Of his eyes.

TARGET VOCABULARY

resemble mature
detecting particular
keen available
vary ferocious
unobserved contentment

GENRE

Poetry

uses the sounds and rhythms of words in a variety of forms to suggest images and express feelings.

TEXT FOCUS

Alliteration

Poets often use repeating consonant sounds at the beginnings of words to create vivid images that appeal to the senses.

TARGET STRATEGY

Monitor/Clarify

How do the sound effects help you understand the poem’s meaning?

Write to Respond

Focus Trait: Sentence Fluency

unobserved available resemble
detecting particular vary
mature contentment
ferocious keen