

Reading Strategy

CLARIFY MEANING

A poem written in dialect may be difficult to read. You can use these strategies to **clarify meaning** as you read.

- Use side notes to learn the definition of unfamiliar words.
- Use context clues to understand what the author is saying.
- Read the poem aloud to improve your understanding.

Directions: As you read the poems, use this chart to **paraphrase**, or restate in your own words, any difficult passages you encounter. An example has been done for you.

“To a Mouse”

Excerpt	Paraphrase
“Thou need na start awa sae hasty / Wi’ bickering brattle!”	You don’t need to run away with such a hurried scamper.

“To a Louse”

Excerpt	Paraphrase