

Reading Skill

INFER MEANING

Hopkins’s poems often include difficult syntax and vocabulary words. You may need to infer, or make an educated guess, about the meaning of difficult words and phrases. Your inferences should be based on context clues, or the nearby words and phrases. To understand the words Hopkins invents, think about the images or feelings each word conveys. For example, to describe skies, Hopkins coins the word “couple-color.” You can use the context of the poem to understand that *couple-color* creates an image of many colors being combined, or coupled.

Directions: Complete this chart to help you interpret the meaning of any difficult phrases or complex imagery. One example has been provided.

Phrases or Imagery	Inferences
for skies of couple-color	a sky with streaks of many colors, such as a sky at sunset

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PIED BEAUTY / SPRING AND FALL:
TO A YOUNG CHILD