

Read this poem, then answer the questions.

The deer

They stood there at the field's edge, like swimmers
too nervous to go in. They kicked up their heels
daintily – dancers practising their steps –
and their ears flickered to and fro,
to and fro, listening
for a dog or a man.

Their spring coats were glossy
as the new grass, soft as wool
that you wanted to stroke.
and I almost could. I was down-wind,
hidden by the oaks. I got that close
before they turned
and saw me and were gone,
moving like water down the hillside
in a stream of brown.

1. Where are the deer standing at the start of the poem?

2. How do we know that the deer are very shy?

3. What other sign do the deer give that they are looking out for danger?

4. What two things were they particularly frightened of?

5. What adverb tells us how the deer moved their feet?

6. What time of year is it?

7. What were the coats of the deer like, and what colour were they?

8. What were the reasons that the poet could get close to the deer?

9. Why was being 'down-wind' important?

10. Write down all the similes and metaphors in the poem in two groups.

a Similes _____

b Metaphors _____

11. What tells you that the poet finds the deer beautiful?

0	Tough	OK	Got it!
			12

Total

12
