



Directions: Fill in the verbs in this poem with your own unique verbs. Think about how the verbs you choose enhance the sound and meaning of the poem.

Liquid Grace

Susa Lynne, Age 13, Oregon, Scholastic Art & Writing Gold Award 2004

An inky black shadow
_____ between leafless alder trunks,
_____ slowly downhill
toward a small murky pond.

_____ nimbly along the muddy bank,
then _____ a blackberry laden hill,
the feral cat _____ effortlessly,
fluidly.

Under his downy black coat,
perfectly toned muscle _____
like a cascading rivulet
with every agile step he takes.

White whiskers _____
alongside his pink nose;
yellow eyes _____ brightly out
from beneath secretive brows.

As his uneven white socks patter the rich soil,
his silken ears _____ constantly,
_____ silently,
_____ animatedly.

The scents of snake and leaf-loam _____ to him,
as do several small burrs and twigs;
his fur is sleek and shining,
well groomed, immaculate.

His heart _____ gently
deep inside his chest,
in time with his soft,
contented breathing.

_____ the secret hollow
under an enormous cedar stump
blanketed in dense ivy,
he _____ inside.

He _____ his scarred nose under his delicate paws,
_____ his tail around his alert ears;
curled into a diminutive ball, snug and secure,
he _____ to sleep.