Robin

Robin sang sweetly
When the days were bright:
"Thanks, thanks for summer,
He sang with all his might.

Robin sang sweetly,
In the autumn days,
"There are fruits for everyone;
Let all give praise."

In the cold and wintry weather,
Still hear his song:
"Somebody must sing," said Robin
"Or winter will seem long."

When the spring came back again,
He sang, "I told you so!
Keep on singing through the winter
It will always go."

Anonymous
WORDS TO KNOW

autumn  the season before winter, when leaves fall from the trees
might  strength
praise  thanks (through worship)
wintry  cold, like the winter season

COMPREHENSION

1. Answer the following questions.
   a. What are the four seasons?
   b. When does Robin sing with all his might?
   c. What does Robin say about autumn?
   d. What does Robin say during the winter?
   e. When can we still hear Robin's song?
   f. What does Robin say in the spring?

   These questions are more difficult. Discuss them first.
   g. Do you think that Robin is a happy bird? Why?
   h. Which of the following best describes Robin? Say why.
      i. careful
      ii. clever
      iii. hopeful
      iv. sorrowful

2. Write which of the following is true (T) about the poem.
   a. Robin sang sweetly throughout the year.
   b. Robin sang with all his might in the winter.
   c. Robin says we should all give praise in the spring.
   d. Robin stopped singing in the cold winter.
   e. Summer comes immediately after autumn.
3. Answer the questions about these two lines from the poem.

In the cold and wintry weather,
Still hear his song:
   a. Who is singing?
   b. What does the word ‘still’ tell us about the singer?
   c. What reason does the singer give for singing during the winter?

WORKING WITH WORDS

1. Write opposites for these words. You will find a few of them in the poem.

   a. never  b. no one  c. quickly  d. liked
   e. friend  f. went  g. come  h. foolish

2. Which opposites did you find in the poem?

3. Match the following and use them in sentences of your own.

   A
   as dark  as good  as sweet  as hard
   as stupid  as dry

   B
   gold  a bone  night
   a donkey  stone  honey

LEARNING ABOUT LANGUAGE

Complete the following sentences in your own words.

1. Robin sang sweetly when ..........................................................
2. When autumn comes ..............................................................
3. I shall go when ........................................................................
4. When he returns ......................................................................
LISTENING AND SPEAKING

1. Find rhyming words in the poem for the following.
   
   a. neatly  
   b. roots  
   c. leather  
   d. banks  
   e. rolled  
   f. bore  
   g. light  
   h. dream  
   i. leap  
   j. haze  
   k. few  
   l. fair

2. Work with a partner and with the help of a dictionary find other rhyming words for the words in the list.

3. Find a word and say it aloud to your partner. Your partner must find rhyming words for your word in ten seconds. Award five points for each correct word found. Then swap roles. After choosing five words each, add up your scores. You will find that it is easier to find rhyming words for some words and not for others.

COMPOSITION

Which season do you like the best? Write about it and draw a picture.