

First Fox



A big fox stands in the spring grass,
Glossy in the sun, chestnut bright,
Plumb centre of the open meadow, a leaf
From a picture book.

Forepaws delicately nervous,
Thick brush on the grass
He rakes the air for the scent
Of the train rushing by,

My first fox,
Wiped from my eye,
In a moment of train-time.

Pamela Gillilan

Visual Dictionary



Plumb line



Chestnut



Leaf of a book



Brush



Rake



Meadow

Secret Strings

A secret string is anything that links one word or phrase to another.

A big fox stands in the spring grass,
Glossy in the sun, chestnut bright,
Plumb centre of the open meadow, a leaf ??page??
From a picture book.

- Alliteration – x and s making similar sounds
- Stands and grass echo one another because of the similar vowel sounds
- Nut and bright echo one another because they have the t sound at the end
- Open and book are linked words – the meadow is open like a book
- Why hasn't the poet used the word page. Is it because leaf is also to do with nature?
- Chestnut bright is a shortened simile – as bright as a chestnut...

Fox

After dark
when the cars park
and the streets are quiet
Fox comes
loping calmly over the wall.

He strolls
along the pavement
and
across the road
with his long nose,
sharp ears
and his feathery brush of a tail,
flows like water through the shadows and hard
spaces.

He goes alone.
This is his place
these trails of smells,
the bins and bags that are his pickings
the yards and parks,
back alleys and the hollows under cars.
If we pass by he turns and with one look
reminds us
that we've only borrowed it.

by Kathy Henderson

