

Graphic Organizer for Active Reading

Apparently with no surprise

Emily Dickinson

Pupil's Edition page 385

Metaphor Metamorphosis

In the Dickinson poem you've just read, facets of nature that are usually pictured as benign and harmless are presented—somewhat startlingly—as predatory and dangerous.

In the second column of the following chart, note benevolent or positive images of the listed objects. Then, in the third column, suggest how the object might be described as something dangerous or negative. An example is given to get you started.

Object	Positive Image	Negative Image
a huge tree	sheltering, shady, wise	rotting and ready to fall on my house
a star		
the moon		
a river		

Some people consider “Apparently with no surprise” to be ghastly and pessimistic. Others consider the poem to be realistic and insightful. Which of these two viewpoints do you support? Explain your answer.
