

**Poetry Collection:** Naomi Shihab Nye, William Jay Smith, Buson**Reading: Ask Questions to Draw a Conclusion**

**Drawing conclusions** means arriving at an overall judgment or idea by pulling together several details. By drawing conclusions, you recognize meanings that are not directly stated. **Asking questions** can help you identify details and make connections that lead to a conclusion. You might ask yourself questions such as these:

- What details does the writer include and emphasize?
- How are the details related?
- What do the details mean all together?

Consider, for example, this haiku by Buson:

After the moon sets,  
slow through the forest, shadows  
drift and disappear

What do the details suggest? The moon has set, so it must be morning. Why, though, do “shadows / drift and disappear”? Is it because it has grown darker or because it has grown lighter, because the sun is rising? The reader might conclude that Buson’s haiku vividly evokes the darkness that precedes dawn.

**DIRECTIONS:** Complete the following chart. First, ask a question about the poem. Then, record the details that prompted the question. Finally, write a conclusion that you can draw based on the question and the related details.

Poem	Question	Details Relating to Question	Conclusion
“The Rider”			
“Seal”			
“O foolish ducklings”			
“Deep in a windless wood”			