

Uncoiling

Pat Mora

With thorns, she scratches
on my window, tosses her hair dark with rain,
snares lightning, cholla,¹ hawks, butterfly
swarms in the tangles.

5 She sighs clouds,
head thrown back, eyes closed, roars
and rivers leap,
boulders retreat like crabs
into themselves.

10 She spews gusts and thunder,
spooks pale women who scurry to
lock doors, windows
when her tumbleweed skirt starts its spin.

15 They sing lace lullabies
so their children won't hear
her uncoiling
through her lips, howling
leaves off trees, flesh
off bones, until she becomes

20 sound, spins herself
to sleep, sand stinging her ankles,
whirring into her raw skin like stars.

Vocabulary Development: **snares** (snayrz) *v.* catches in a trap
spews (spyooz) *v.* sprays

1. **cholla** (CHOH yah) *n.* spiny cactus found in the southwestern United States and Mexico.

TAKE NOTES

Activate Prior Knowledge

If you had to compare a storm to something else, what would it be? Think of at least two different comparisons you could make. How would the impression of the storm change with the different comparisons?

Poetry

Personification is when a writer gives human actions or attitudes to objects. Underline the human actions that the storm performs.

Poetry

Sound devices like **alliteration** and **rhyme** give a musical quality to writing. What sound device is Mora using in the last **stanza**, or group of lines?

What is the **image**, or word picture, created by the sound device?

Reading Check

What things get caught in the storm's "hair"? Circle the text that tells you.

