

**Spring is A Cat**

On a cat's fur soft as pollen,
The mild Spring's fragrance lingers.

In a cat's eyes round as golden bells,
The mad Spring's flame glows.

On a cat's gently closed lips,
The soft Spring's drowsiness lies.

On a cat's sharp whiskers,
The green Spring's life dance.

14th century Korean Poem

Show what the poet's message is.

Checagou

Seasons change a lot on the Midwestern prairie, and after the harsh winter spring would bring new life. Long ago, much of the Chicago area was prairie land. After a long, hard winter, the Native Americans would look forward to spring. In fact, they called this land Checagou, which means stinking wild onion—the name of the plant that was the first sign of spring. When they found the wild onions they knew the hard winter was ending.

The Native Americans who lived in this area looked forward to spring. They would fish and gather food from plants. The prairie is very wet in the spring because the snow from the winter melts and leaves big ponds. The frogs that had hibernated under the ground would come out to splash in those ponds. Birds would sing at daybreak and sundown, and each day brought more sunshine that helped the plants grow.

Show what the historian's message is.

Common Core Anchor Literacy Standard 9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

1. What is the theme of the "Spring is a Cat"?
2. What is the main idea of Checagou?
3. How do the two writers feel about spring? How do you know?
4. Write a poem or passage about spring. First, decide what your message is—what you want your reader to understand?