

Diction

Consider:

Wind **rocks** the car.
We sit parked by the river,
silence between our teeth.
Birds scatter across islands
of broken ice . . .

— Adrienne Rich, “Like This Together, for A.H.C.”

Discuss:

1. What are the feelings produced by the word *rocks*? Are the feelings gentle, violent, or both?
2. How would the meaning change if we changed the first line to *Wind shakes the car*?

Apply:

List with the class different meanings for the verb *rock*. How many of these meanings would make sense in this poem? Remember that the poet often strives to capture complexity rather than a single view or meaning.