

# Imagery

## Consider:

This is the time of year  
when almost every night  
the frail, illegal fire balloons appear.  
Climbing the mountain height,

rising toward a saint  
still honored in these parts,  
the paper chambers flush and fill with light  
that comes and goes, like hearts.

— Elizabeth Bishop, “The Armadillo (for Robert Lowell)”

## Discuss:

1. Read the two stanzas aloud. What kind of imagery does Bishop use in these lines? How does the use of imagery contribute to the reader’s understanding of the lines?
2. The image of the balloons rising and filling with light ends with a simile (*like hearts*). How is the effect of the simile different from that of the image?

## Apply:

Write an image of an unusual sight you have witnessed on a vacation. Use ten words or less. Now describe the same sight using a simile. Discuss the differences in effect with a partner.