

# Syntax

## Consider:

“I’m clean, Carlito, I’m not using.” My voice dropped to a whisper. “I’m not using.” And oh, God, I found my mind, thinking, *Wonder what it would be like again? Wonder what it would be like again? Wonder what it would be like again? Wonder . . .*

— Piri Thomas, *Down These Mean Streets*

## Discuss:

1. Thomas repeats the question *Wonder what it would be like again?* three times in the passage. What effect does this repetition have on the impact of the passage?
2. At the end of the passage, Thomas uses ellipses to indicate an omission of words required for complete syntactical construction but unnecessary for understanding. What words are missing? What impact does this omission have on the passage?

## Apply:

Imagine that you are very hungry and are on the way to the best restaurant in town. Describe what you feel as you anticipate a great dinner. In your description use questions and ellipses, as Thomas does. Share your description with the class and explain the impact the questions and ellipses have on the description.