A bird came down the walk:
He did not know I saw;
He bit an angle-worm in halves
And ate the fellow, raw.

And then he drank a dew
From a convenient grass,
And then hopped sidewise to the wall
To let a beetle pass.

He glanced with rapid eyes
That hurried all abroad, –
They looked like frightened beads, I thought;
He stirred his velvet head

Like one in danger; cautious,
I offered him a crumb,
And he unrolled his feathers
And rowed him softer home

Than oars divide the ocean,
Too silver for a seam,
Or butterflies, off banks of noon,
Leap, plashless, as they swim.
Response Questions

A BIRD CAME DOWN THE WALK

- Why do you think Dickinson would describe the bird's eyes as "frightened beads"? Is this a simile or a metaphor?

- In the poem, Dickinson describes the bird's head as "velvet." Is this a simile or a metaphor?

- What other adjectives could be used to describe the bird's head?