The Box Man was at it again. It was his lucky night.

The first stroke of good fortune occurred as darkness fell and the night watchman at 220 East Forty-fifth Street neglected to close the door as he slipped out for a cup of coffee. I saw them before the Box Man did. Just inside the entrance, cardboard cartons, clean and with their top flaps intact. With the silent fervor of a mute at a horse race, I willed him toward them.

It was slow going. His collar was pulled so high that he appeared headless as he shuffled across the street like a man who must feel Earth with his toes to know that he walks there.

Written Response: Taking your observations into account, write a response in which you analyze how Ascher uses language to create a particular effect in the opening moments of the essay. Remember to include specific text examples in your response.