

Read the poems below then answer the questions that follow.

Mother to Son by Langston Hughes

Well, son, I'll tell you:
Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.
It's had tacks in it,
And splinters,
And boards torn up, 5
And places with no carpet on the floor—
Bare.
But all the time
I've been a-climbin' on,
And reachin' landin's, 10
And turnin' corners,
And sometimes goin' in the dark
Where there ain't been no light.
So boy, don't you turn back.
Don't you set down on the steps 15
'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.
Don't you fall now—
For I've still goin', honey,
I've still climbin',
And life for me ain't been no crystal stair. 20



Answer the following questions by choosing the letter of the best answer.

- 1 **What is the theme of the poem?**
 - A. Perseverance
 - B. Love
 - C. Friendship
 - D. Compassion

- 2 **What kind of poem is 'Mother to Son'?**
 - A. Haiku
 - B. Free verse
 - C. Sonnet
 - D. Limerick

- 3 **Which of the following is a literary device that is NOT used in the poem?**
 - A. Simile
 - B. Metaphor
 - C. Anaphora
 - D. Dialect

4 What literary device is used in lines 4 to 6?

- A. Simile
- B. Metaphor
- C. Anaphora
- D. Imagery

5 What literary device is used in lines 10 to 12?

- A. Anaphora
- B. Imagery
- C. Simile
- D. Metaphor

6 What imagery is used in lines 1 to 7?

- A. Kinesthetic
- B. Olfactory
- C. Auditory
- D. Visual

7 According to the poem, what has life been for the mother?

- A. It has been as steady as crystal stairs.
- B. It has been as challenging as stairs with splinters.
- C. It has been as high as tall stairs.
- D. It has been as soft as carpeted stairs.

8 What do lines 8 to 13 mean?

- A. It implies that the mother has been climbing stairs to make a living for her son.
- B. It implies that the speaker continues to walk down the stairs despite being very dark.
- C. It implies that the mother has been climbing up different stairs to practise a good landing.
- D. It implies that the speaker continues to move forward despite the challenges she went through

The Character of a Happy Life by Sir Henry Wotton

How happy is he born and taught
That serveth not another's will;
Whose armour is his honest thought,
And simple truth his utmost skill!

Whose passions not his masters are;
Whose soul is still prepared for death,
Untied unto the world by care
Of public fame or private breath;



Who envies none that chance doth raise,
Nor vice; who never understood
How deepest wounds are given by praise;
Nor rules of state, but rules of good;

Who hath his life from rumours freed;
Whose conscience is his strong retreat;
Whose state can neither flatterers feed,
Nor ruin make oppressors great;

Who God doth late and early pray
More of His grace than gifts to lend;
And entertains the harmless day
With a religious book or friend;

—This man is freed from servile bands
Of hope to rise or fear to fall:
Lord of himself, though not of lands,
And having nothing, yet hath all.

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Answer the following questions by choosing the letter of the best answer.

9 Which of the following is NOT a theme explored in the poem?

- A. Friendship
- B. Happiness
- C. Simplicity
- D. Religion

10 What type of stanza is used throughout the poem?

- A. Couplet
- B. Tercet
- C. Quatrain
- D. Quintain

11 What rhyme scheme is observed in the poem?

- A. AABB CCDD EEFF GGHH IIJJ KKLL
- B. ABAB CDCD EFEF GHGH IJJI KLKL
- C. ABA BCB CDC DED EFE FGF
- D. ABABBCBC BCBC

12 What poetic device is used in line 15?

- A. Juxtaposition

- B. Alliteration
- C. Imagery
- D. Personification

13 According to stanza 1, what does man have to do to have a happy life?

- A. A will that is born and taught.
- B. A skill that is simple and true.
- C. An armour of honest thought.
- D. A skill that serves another's will.

14 What figurative language is used in line 3?

- A. Metaphor
- B. Simile
- C. Imagery
- D. Anaphora

15 What is the speaker trying to communicate in stanza 3?

- A. The importance of raising chances, understanding vices and praising wounds.
- B. The importance of not being envious, staying away from vices and living by the rules of good.
- C. The importance of envying nothing, never understanding vices and following the rules of good.
- D. The importance of not raising chances, staying away from vices and living by the wounds given by praise.

16 What is the speaker trying to describe in the first stanza?

- A. The poet is describing the necessities of how one becomes closer to God.
- B. The poet is describing the best armour money could buy for a happy man.
- C. The poet is describing what a man must strat away from at all costs.
- D. The poet is describing the key characteristics of a happy man.

The House by the Side of the Road by Sam Walter Foss

There are hermit souls that live withdrawn
 In the place of their self-content;
 There are souls like stars, that dwell apart,
 In a fellowless firmament;
 There are pioneer souls that blaze the paths
 Where highways never ran-
 But let me live by the side of the road
 And be a friend to man.

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Let me live in a house by the side of the road
 Where the race of men go by-
 The men who are good and the men who are bad,

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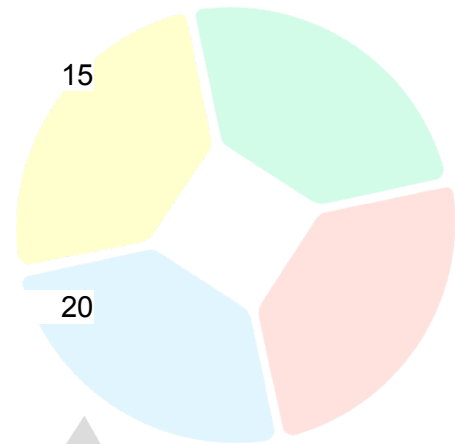


As good and as bad as I.
I would not sit in the scorner's seat
Nor hurl the cynic's ban-
Let me live in a house by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

I see from my house by the side of the road
By the side of the highway of life,
The men who press with the ardor of hope,
The men who are faint with the strife,
But I turn not away from their smiles and tears,
Both parts of an infinite plan-
Let me live in a house by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

I know there are brook-gladdened meadows ahead,
And mountains of wearisome height;
That the road passes on through the long afternoon
And stretches away to the night.
And still I rejoice when the travelers rejoice
And weep with the strangers that moan,
Nor live in my house by the side of the road
Like a man who dwells alone.

Let me live in my house by the side of the road,
Where the race of men go by-
They are good, they are bad, they are weak, they are strong,
Wise, foolish - so am I.
Then why should I sit in the scorner's seat,
Or hurl the cynic's ban?
Let me live in my house by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.



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Answer the following questions by choosing the letter of the best answer.

17 What is the purpose of the poem?

- A. To uplift its readers about taking one for the team.
- B. To inspire its readers about helping the ones in need.
- C. To encourage its readers about improving one's morals.
- D. To motivate its readers about forgiving the needy.

18 What is the theme of the poem?

- A. You have no one but yourself in the battle of life.
- B. The decision is yours to make when it comes to giving aid to your family.
- C. Everyone deserves help, and dedicating oneself to that task is morally good.

D. To be a person with morals and values is better than nothing.

19 What is the tone of the poem?

- A. Confident and compassionate
- B. Tense yet upbeat
- C. Sarcastic and melancholic
- D. Formal and joyful

20 What idea is the speaker describing in stanza 1?

- A. The different types of roads.
- B. The different types of hermit souls.
- C. The different types of houses lived by man.
- D. The different types of souls in the world.

20 What idea is the speaker describing in stanza 1?

- E. The different types of roads.
- F. The different types of hermit souls.
- G. The different types of houses lived by man.
- H. The different types of souls in the world.

21 What rhyme scheme is observed in the poem?

- A. ABAB
- B. ABBA
- C. ABCB
- D. AABB

22 What literary device is used in the last two lines of stanzas: 1, 2, 3 and 5?

- A. Parallelism
- B. Refrain
- C. Enjambment
- D. Juxtaposition

23 What literary device is used in lines 1, 3 and 5?

- A. Parallelism
- B. Enjambment
- C. Refrain
- D. Juxtaposition

24 What literary device is used in line 34?



- A. Parallelism
- B. Enjambment
- C. Refrain
- D. Juxtaposition

The Race To Get To Sleep by Brian Patten

They're on their marks, they're set,
Their off!

Matthew is kicking off his shoes!
Penny's struggling out of her jumper!
He's ripping off his trousers!
She's got one sock off! Now the other's off!
But Matthew's still wining! No, he's not!
It's Penny! Penny's is in the lead!
She's down her knickers!
She's racing out of the room!
She's racing upstairs!
Matthew is right behind her!
There's a fight on the landing!
There's a scramble at the bathroom's door!
It's Penny! It's Matthew! It's...
Splash! They're both in the bath!
But there's a hitch!
Matthew's got soap in his eyes!
Penny's got soap on her nose!
They're stalling! But no, they're both fine!
They're both out of the bath! They're neck and neck!
It's Matthew! It's Penny! It's Matthew!
Now's is Penny again! She's ahead!
She's first on with her pyjamas!
Now Matthew is catching up! There's nothing in it!
They're climbing into their beds!
They're both absolutely quiet!
It's the hardest race in the whole world!

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Answer the following questions by choosing the letter of the best answer.

25 Which is NOT a literary device used in the poem?

- A. Personification
- B. Repetition
- C. Anaphora
- D. Enjambment

26 What literary device is used in lines 9, 10 and 11?

- A. Metaphor
- B. Repetition
- C. Anaphora
- D. Enjambment

27 What is the explicit meaning of line 10?

- A. Penny felt a rush of emotions after taking off her knickers.
- B. Matthew dashed out of the room and ran after Penny.
- C. Penny is sprinting to get out of the room.
- D. Matthew initiated a race with Penny.

28 What literary device is used in lines 15 to 16?

- A. Anaphora
- B. Enjambment
- C. Personification
- D. Simile

29 In line 20, what does the word “stalling” mean?

- A. Feeling pain in the stomach
- B. Putting up stalls
- C. Swiftly running away
- D. Wasting time and getting preoccupied

30 What literary device is used in lines 20, 21, 26 and 27?

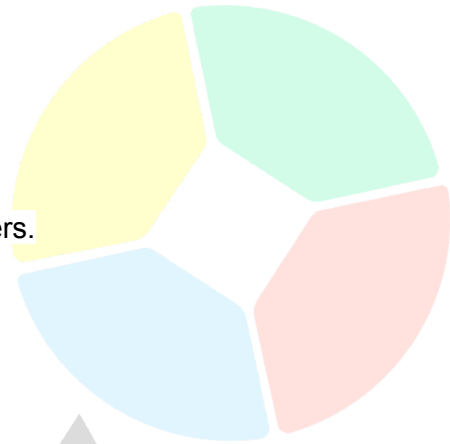
- A. Enjambment
- B. Anaphora
- C. Personification
- D. Simile

31 What type of imagery is used in line 26?

- A. Tactile
- B. Auditory
- C. Olfactory
- D. Visual

32 What is the speaker of the poem feeling?

- A. Excited
- B. Jealous
- C. Disgusted
- D. Unsatisfied



I have never seen "Volcanoes" by Emily Dickinson

I have never seen "Volcanoes"—
But, when Travellers tell
How those old – phlegmatic mountains
Usually so still –

Bear within – appalling Ordnance,
Fire, and smoke, and gun,
Taking Villages for breakfast,
And appalling Men – 5

If the stillness is Volcanic
In the human face 10
When upon a pain Titanic
Features keep their place –

If at length the smouldering anguish
Will not overcome –
And the palpitating Vineyard 15
In the dust, be thrown?

If some loving Antiquary,
On Resumption Morn,
Will not cry with joy "Pompeii!"
To the Hills return! 20



Answer the following questions by choosing the letter of the best answer.

33 What do the volcanoes signify in the poem?

- A. A metaphor for angry emotions.
- B. A metaphor for human experiences.
- C. A metaphor for an unattractive face.
- D. A metaphor for a mental health disorder.

34 What is the tone of the poem?

- A. Passionate
- B. Sarcastic
- C. Nostalgic
- D. Melancholic

35 What is the theme of the poem?

- A. The contrast between a wealthy person and a person in need.

- B. The contrast between an active volcano and an inactive volcano.
- C. The contrast between different emotions that trigger fight-and-flight responses.
- D. The contrast between the life lived on the inside and the life lived on the outside.

36 What type of poem is used in this piece?

- A. Ballad
- B. Sonnet
- C. Haiku
- D. Limerick

37 What type of stanza is used throughout the poem?

- A. Couplet
- B. Tercet
- C. Quatrain
- D. Quintain

38 What rhyme scheme is utilised in the poem?

- A. ABAB
- B. ABBA
- C. AABB
- D. ABCB

39 What literary device is used in lines 2 and 3 of the first stanza?

- A. Metaphor
- B. Repetition
- C. Enjambment
- D. Anaphora

40 What literary device is used in lines 2 and 3 of the third stanza?

- A. Enjambment
- B. Anaphora
- C. Repetition
- D. Metaphor

