

Read the poems below then answer the questions that follow.

New Friends and Old Friends by Joseph Parry

Make new friends, but keep the old;
Those are silver, these are gold.
New-made friendships, like new wine,
Age will mellow and refine.

Friendships that have stood the test—
Time and change—are surely best;
Brow may wrinkle, hair grow grey,
Friendship never knows decay.

For 'mid old friends, tried and true,
Once more we our youth renew.
But old friends, alas! may die,
New friends must their place supply.

Cherish friendship in your chest—
New is good, but old is best;
Make new friends, but keep the old;
Those are silver, these are gold.

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

1 What literary device is used in line 3?

- A. imagery
- B. simile
- C. symbolism
- D. onomatopoeia

2 What is the lesson taught by the poem?

- A. Value the friends who have always been there.
- B. Making new friends is more important than keeping the old.
- C. Life is more fun when you have your friends with you.
- D. Friends are the people that make the world go round.

3 What line in the poem shows personification?

- A. line 3
- B. line 5
- C. line 7
- D. line 14

4 What did the speaker want us to realise in line 8?

- A. Friendships don't end well.

- B. Friendships can be draining.
- C. Friendships only last for a while.
- D. Friendships can last forever.

5 Why does the speaker compare old friendships to gold while new friendships to silver?

- A. because old friends should have more value than new friends
- B. because old friends give us more material things than our new friends
- C. because keeping old friends costs more than making new friends
- D. because old friends are richer than the new friends we make

6 What is the tone of the poem?

- A. humorous
- B. formal
- C. pessimistic
- D. light-hearted

7 Which lines tell us that friendships become better as time passes?

- A. lines 3 and 4
- B. lines 7 and 8
- C. lines 9 and 10
- D. lines 15 and 16

8 What does lines 11 and 12 signify?

- A. New friends can never be as good as the old friends we have.
- B. New friends replace the old ones when they are not around.
- C. New friends make things a lot better compared to old friends.
- D. New friends hate being around our new friends.

The Blade And The Ax By Abimbola T. Alabi

On a bench, in Joe's little shed,
lying not too far apart,
were his axe and his switchblade,
having a quiet heart-to-heart.

"How small and weak you look,"
said the axe to the blade. 5

"You will never be able to do
those deeds for which I'm made."

"For it's me that Joe will use
to cut the boughs of trees. 10

You should see me at work sometime,
how I split a log with ease."

"A great help you are around

performing these hefty tasks,
but stuff I do for Joe, you can't,"
replied the blade to the axe. 15

"Would he ever count on you
to cut or strip a wire bare?
Try slicing open packages too.
I'd love to see just how you'd fare." 20

"We're designed in unique ways;
you're not superior as you claim."
The mighty axe and the nifty blade
needed by Joe all the same.

In the end, they both agreed
about their weaknesses and strengths.
Neither of them, they could see,
was truly a hundred percent. 25

From then on, they became pals,
got along and learned to relax. 30
Never again was there pride or strife
between the blade and the axe.



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

9 What does the poem teach us?

- A. It's better to hurt someone with the truth than to comfort them with a lie.
- B. No one should be too proud of how valuable they are, everybody has their own purpose.
- C. We should be loud and proud of our achievements and accomplishments.
- D. Be humble to someone who has achieved more but show off to people who achieved less.

10 How can you describe the axe in the beginning of the poem?

- A. humble, kind, and gentle
- B. loyal, playful, and loud
- C. boastful, arrogant, and self-absorbed
- D. aggressive, confident, and morbid

11 Based on the poem, which of the following best describes what Joe's job might be?

- A. a chef
- B. a teacher
- C. a businessman
- D. a carpenter

12 What is the 7th stanza trying to tell us?

- A. Nobody is perfect, everyone has a flaw.
- B. Some people are born with no imperfections.
- C. Our weaknesses are the things that truly define us.
- D. Our strengths always outweigh our weaknesses.

13 What literary device is dominant in the poem?

- A. onomatopoeia
- B. hyperbole
- C. personification
- D. simile

14 What type of imagery is conveyed in the first stanza?

- A. auditory
- B. tactile
- C. gustatory
- D. visual

15 What type of poem is "The Blade And The Ax"?

- A. haiku
- B. free verse
- C. sonnet
- D. villanelle

16 In what perspective is the poem written in?

- A. first person
- B. second person
- C. third person
- D. fourth person

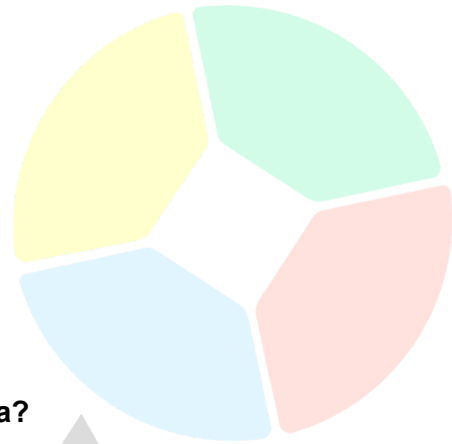
The Dragon by Nicole Q. Wong

A misunderstanding I've had
Was that a dragon was bad.
With his sharp claws, his look of death!
Not to mention his fiery breath,
How could he not be?
I was wrong, you see.

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One day, I was skipping happily in the meadow,
When I came across a rather upset old fellow.
"Good day," said he,
Bowing down to me,
And I was too shocked to speak.

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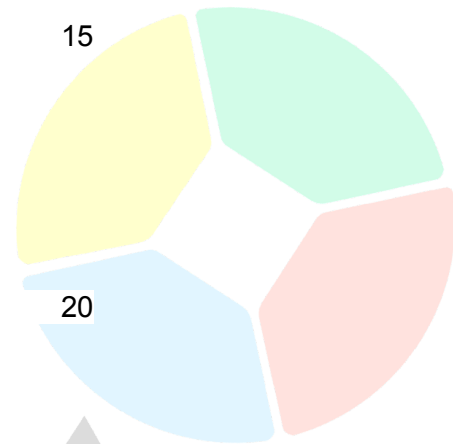


Yes, with his breath and his sharp talons,
I had met a real live dragon.
"What's wrong?" I asked him, bowing too,
As he seemed conspicuously blue.

Then, without warning, he burst into tears
And was unmistakably trembling with fear!
"Oh, spare me!" he cried, covering his face.
"I just want to leave this miserable place!"

He told me how princes had slayed his brothers,
And how they were after him too. His mother
Saved him by taking a princess hostage,
And that made her seem savage.

After my encounter with him,
I realised what matters is within.
Yes, I learned something you can't learn from books,
And it's that you can't judge anything by its looks.



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

- 17 **What rhyme pattern does the first stanza have?**
- A. ABCABC
 - B. ABCAAB
 - C. AABBCC
 - D. ABCABB
- 18 **What lesson does the author of the poem want us to learn?**
- A. Always try to see the brighter side.
 - B. Never judge a book by its cover.
 - C. If someone hurts you, try to get even.
 - D. Never talk to a stranger.
- 19 **What emotions are shown by the dragon in the poem?**
- A. joy and relief
 - B. anger and disgust
 - C. sadness and regret
 - D. fright and sorrow
- 20 **How did the speaker judge the dragon at first?**
- A. based on actions
 - B. based on voice
 - C. based on appearance
 - D. based on character

21 In the fourth stanza, why was the dragon scared?

- A. He is alone without his mother to protect him.
- B. He too might get slain just like his brothers.
- C. He hates talking in front of people he doesn't know.
- D. He lost his way around the meadows.

22 What does line 25 mean?

- A. What matters is your character.
- B. What matters is what's inside your house.
- C. What matters is how smart you are.
- D. What matters is how you are at home.

23 What mood does the last stanza show?

- A. cheerful
- B. gloomy
- C. reflective
- D. fearful

24 What misunderstanding did the speaker and the dragon have?

- A. The speaker thought the dragon was mean and vicious.
- B. The speaker thought the dragon was a figment of his imagination.
- C. The speaker thought the dragon was going to eat him.
- D. The speaker thought the dragon was bigger than he was.

Wishing by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Do you wish the world were better?
Let me tell you what to do -
Set a watch upon your actions:
Keep them always straight and true,
Bid your mind of selfish motives;
Let your thoughts be clean and high;
You can make a little Eden
Of the sphere you occupy.

5

Do you wish the world to be wiser?
Well, suppose you make a start
By accumulating wisdom
In the scrap-book of your heart.
Do not waste one page in folly;
Live to learn and learn to live;
If you want to increase knowledge.
You must get ere you can give.

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15

Do you wish the world were better?



Then remember day by day
Just to sow the seeds of kindness
As you pass along the way.
For the pleasure of the many
May be oftentimes traced to one.
As the hand that plants the acorn
Shelters armies from the sun.

20



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

25 What is the theme of the poem?

- A. love
- B. kindness
- C. honesty
- D. courage

26 Why is sowing the seed of kindness important in making the world better?

- A. because the seeds will eventually grow and spread to others
- B. because it is important for everyone to see your kindness
- C. so you can expect to harvest kindness from everyone
- D. so you can show off how great you are at planting

27 What does line 3 mean?

- A. Always record what you do day-by-day.
- B. Always have a timer at hand.
- C. Always be mindful of your actions.
- D. Always be time conscious.

28 Why is the poem titled "Wishing"?

- A. because the poem is about the speaker wishing for his dreams for his family to come true
- B. because the poem is about the speaker wishing to make the world a better place
- C. because the poem is about the speaker wishing for a more improved society
- D. because the poem is about the speaker wishing for a better life for himself

29 What is the tone of the poem?

- A. light-hearted
- B. friendly
- C. curious
- D. cheerful

30 Which words can you associate with the poem?

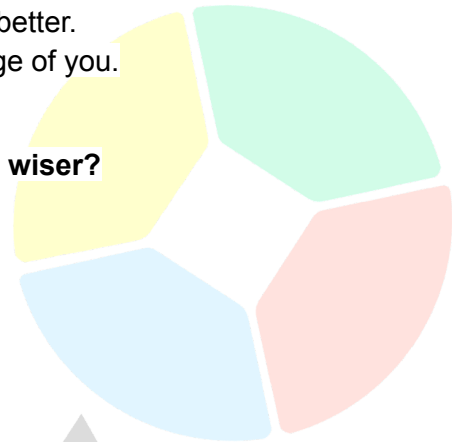
- A. peace, rally, and forgive
- B. kindness, romantic, and flowers
- C. love, bloom, and bright
- D. plant, tenderness, and nature

31 What is the main thought of the poem?

- A. If you have nothing good to say, don't say it at all.
- B. Always be kind, kindness makes the world a whole lot better.
- C. Never be too kind because people might take advantage of you.
- D. Kindness is earned and not freely given.

32 According to the poem, how can the world become wiser?

- A. by starting with yourself
- B. by teaching others first
- C. by starting within the family
- D. by educating children



Don't Quit by Edgar Albert Guest

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
when the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
when the funds are low and the debts are high,
and you want to smile but you have to sigh,
when care is pressing you down a bit - rest if you must, but don't you quit. 5

Life is queer with its twists and turns.
As everyone of us sometimes learns.
And many a fellow turns about when he might have won had he stuck it out.
Don't give up though the pace seems slow - you may succeed with another blow.
Often the goal is nearer than it seems to a faint and faltering man; 10

Often the struggler has given up when he might have captured the victor's cup;
and he learned too late when the night came down,
how close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out - the silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
and when you never can tell how close you are, 15
it may be near when it seems afar;
so stick to the fight when you're hardest hit
It's when things seem worst, you must not quit.

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

33 What is the goal of the poem?

- A. to encourage
- B. to commend
- C. to approve
- D. to adore

34 What lesson does the poem teach us

- A. Try once, try twice, if it still doesn't work then move on.
- B. Keep persevering no matter what the situation is.
- C. Hard work doesn't always work, sometimes you need luck.
- D. When life gives you lemons, make some lemonade

35 What emotion did the person in the third stanza might have felt?

- A. joy because his struggles have ended
- B. excitement for the next competition
- C. regret because he gave up too soon
- D. anger because he was tricked into quitting

36 What is the rhyme pattern of the second stanza?

- A. AABCD
- B. AABBC
- C. ABCAB
- D. ABCCD

37 To whom is the poem for?

- A. someone who is celebrating a victory
- B. someone who is about to give up
- C. someone who needs a good cry
- D. Someone who is enjoying a vacation

38 How did the speaker describe life in the second stanza?

- A. Life is complex.
- B. Life is easy.
- C. Life is short.
- D. Life is fun.

39 What symbolises success in the poem?

- A. clouds
- B. road
- C. golden crown
- D. the night

40 What type of poem is "Don't Quit"?

- A. haiku
- B. sonnet
- C. free-verse
- D. acrostic

