

Read the poems below then answer the questions that follow.

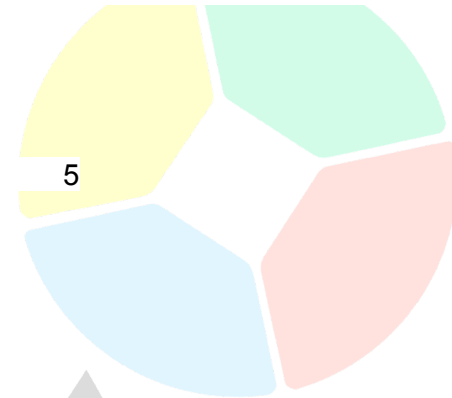
Song Of The Worker's Wife by Alice Gray Jones

“My hands are none too white,
Nor lovely nor tender either,
They're rough and ugly to your sight,
Because of the constant labour,
But my hands are not complaining,
There's no whinging in my chest,
When I recall my tidy house, containing,
My happy little family, like a Nest.

The kids would go early to bed,
And i'd set to doing the wash,
The little snow white clothes all aired,
I'd get them up so nice and posh,
I'd sew a button on David's shirt,
And put a nail in Sam's shoe,
And i'd mend Enid's red skirt-
Those chores that all mothers do.

And Oh! They were all around me,
Like glad little chicks in a throng,
And my single purpose was to see,
My children happy, fit and strong,
To keep an eye on their progress,
To care for them all day long,
To keep their language spotless:
I was happy, all smiles and song.

But, alas, they've all grown up,
And all have left the nest,
They'll no more come home to sup,
And their old toys are all at rest!
The workbox for mending their things,
And for putting a nail in Sam's shoe,
Is now quite useless- a bird without wings;
A mam's initiative unwanted, no more for her to do!”



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

- 1 **What perspective is the poem written in?**
- A. first person
 - B. second person
 - C. third person
 - D. fourth person

2 What mood does the second stanza of the poem depict?

- A. happy
- B. fearful
- C. nostalgic
- D. ominous

3 According to the poem, what is the speaker's purpose in life?

- A. to see the children untroubled and healthy
- B. to serve the children in all her lifetime
- C. to spend her life with the children forever
- D. to give the children a luxurious life

4 What literary device is used in lines 17-18?

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

5 What realisation did the speaker have in the fourth stanza?

- A. The children have abandoned her and severed relations with her.
- B. The children are already adults living their own lives.
- C. The children have returned home, having already forgotten who she is.
- D. The children are figments of her imagination and do not exist.

6 Who is the speaker in the poem?

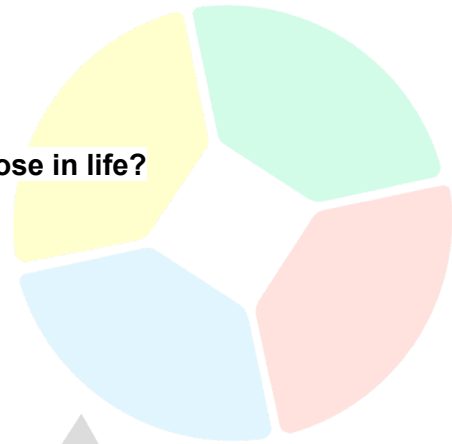
- A. a nanny
- B. a neighbour
- C. a landlord
- D. a mother

7 What does the twenty-third line mean?

- A. to ensure children do not converse with strangers
- B. to ensure that children use courteous language
- C. to ensure that children do not discuss morbid topics
- D. to make sure the children only talk about positive things

8 What does the first stanza tell us about the speaker?

- A. The speaker enjoys making changes to herself.
- B. The speaker is complaining, she is exhausted from all of her responsibilities.
- C. The speaker does not mind the changes to her appearance.
- D. The speaker feels sad looking at the changes that have happened to her.



A Bird, came down the Walk by Emily Dickinson

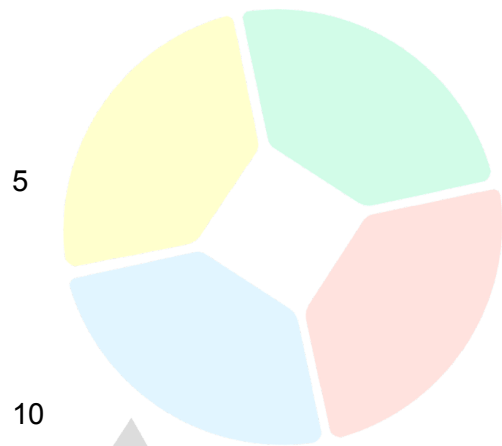
A Bird, came down the Walk -
He did not know I saw -
He bit an Angle Worm in halves
And ate the fellow, raw,

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.



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

9 What form did the poem use based on its lines?

- A. monostich
- B. couplet
- C. tercet
- D. quatrain

10 How did the bird react to the speaker giving him food?

- A. He did not accept the crumb, he flew away instead.
- B. He gladly took the crumb, ate it and asked for more.
- C. He rejected the crumb and stayed there with the girl for a while.
- D. He took the crumb and then flew away.

11 What is the theme of the poem?

- A. love
- B. nature
- C. life
- D. history

12 What is the lesson we can take away from the poem?

- A. There is beauty in even the smallest creatures.
- B. Birds can be a little too sensitive most of the time.
- C. All living things face their own struggles.
- D. Living beings are beautiful.

13 What type of imagery is used in the poem?

- A. auditory
- B. visual
- C. gustato
- D. olfactory

14 What is the rhyme scheme of the first stanza?

- A. ABCB
- B. AABC
- C. ABCA
- D. ABCC

15 What could possibly be the setting of the poem?

- A. a farm
- B. by a window
- C. at the beach
- D. a park walk

16 What feeling does the bird portray in the third stanza?

- A. Astonishment because it is his first time seeing a girl.
- B. Anxiousness because the girl was unfamiliar to him.
- C. Calmness because he loves being around people.
- D. Happiness because he saw the crumb on her hand.

Flower on the Road by Chitra Padmanabhan

Spring has come,
said the bougainvillaea
Crimson, orange, cream
and yellow
Making a flower wall
along the road
I bring happiness
to all.

5

Wait, said the
little flower
on the edge of the kerb
I, too, blossom

10



though I am small
 Every now and then
 a little child walks past, 15
 sees me
 at her height
 And happily smiles.
 Doesn't that make us comrades
 on the road! 20



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

17 What does the road signify?

- A. our journey through life
- B. the memories we left behind
- C. the wisdom we have gained
- D. the friends we made

18 Which is personified in the poem?

- A. the road
- B. the flower wall
- C. the kerb
- D. the flowers

19 Other than the first line, what other things tells us that it is springtime in the poem?

- A. It must be springtime in the poem since the child was happy.
- B. It must be spring in the poem because the plants were blooming.
- C. The season in the poem might be spring because the road was clear.
- D. In the poem, it appears to be spring because the plants were talking.

20 What form does the poem have?

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

21 What is the main theme of the poem?

- A. happiness
- B. beauty
- C. friendship
- D. love

22 What word describes the relationship of the bougainvillaea and the flower?

- A. siblings
- B. companions
- C. cousins

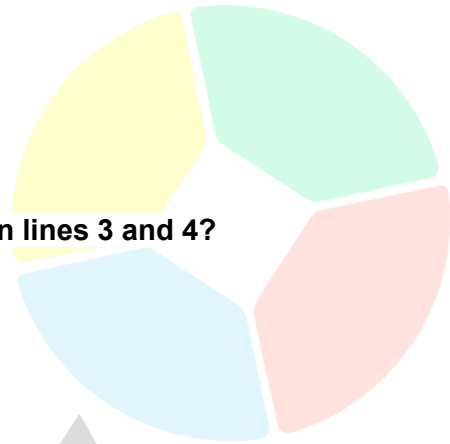
D. enemies

23 What lesson can we get from the poem?

- A. Everyone has kindness deep within them.
- B. Happiness can come in different sizes.
- C. Life is beautiful when you appreciate the little things.
- D. Life is hard, you have to be tough.

24 What is the significance of the colours mentioned in lines 3 and 4?

- A. The colours are the paintings on the wall.
- B. The colours are the bougainvillea's favourite colours.
- C. The colours are the bougainvillea's colours.
- D. The colours are the colour of the murals on the street.



A Friend's Greeting by Edgar Guest

I'd like to be the sort of friend that you have been to me;
I'd like to be the help that you've been always glad to be;
I'd like to mean as much to you each minute of the day
As you have meant, old friend of mine, to me along the way.

I'd like to do the big things and the splendid things for you,
To brush the grey from out your skies and leave them only blue;
I'd like to say the kindly things that I so oft have heard,
And feel that I could rouse your soul the way that mine you've stirred.

5

I'd like to give you back the joy that you have given me,
Yet that were wishing you a need I hope will never be;
I'd like to make you feel as rich as I, who travel on
Undaunted in the darkest hours with you to lean upon.

10

I'm wishing at this Christmas time that I could but repay
A portion of the gladness that you've strewn along my way;
And could I have one wish this year, this only would it be:
I'd like to be the sort of friend that you have been to me.

15

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

25 What is the poem all about?

- A. The things which the speaker wants his good old friend to achieve.
- B. The speaker's gratitude towards his friend who has always been there.
- C. The difficulties endured by the friendship of the speaker and his friend.
- D. The memories the speaker and his friend shared when they were young.

26 What literary device is used in line 11?

- A. imagery

- B. paradox
- C. simile
- D. satire

27 What is the tone of the poem?

- A. assertive
- B. uneasy
- C. grateful
- D. cold

28 To whom is the poem for?

- A. a friend who is always there for him
- B. a friend who turned into an enemy
- C. a friend who showers him with things
- D. a friend who he owes money to

29 Which line uses a hyperbole?

- A. third line
- B. eighth line
- C. thirteenth line
- D. sixteenth line

30 What is the speaker's wish for Christmas?

- A. The speaker wishes for their friendship to last for a lifetime.
- B. The speaker wants for his friend to receive all the good things in the world.
- C. The speaker wishes to meet more friends like the one he already has.
- D. The speaker hopes to be the kind of friend that his friend has been to the speaker.

31 The colour grey in line 6 is a metaphor for what?

- A. gloomy thoughts
- B. rainy days
- C. winter season
- D. painful words

32 What is the theme of the poem?

- A. hope
- B. friendship
- C. family
- D. Love

The Sugar-Plum Tree by Eugene Field

Have you ever heard of the Sugar-Plum Tree?
It is a marvel of great renown!
It blooms on the shore of the Lollypop sea

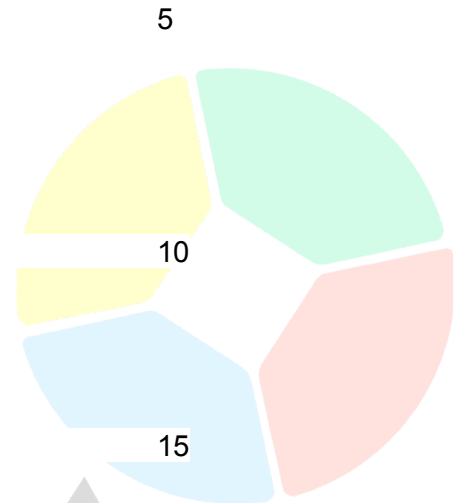


In the garden of Shut-Eye Town;
The fruit that it bears is so wondrously sweet
(As those who have tasted it say)
That good little children have only to eat
Of that fruit to be happy next day.

When you've got to the tree, you would have a hard time
To capture the fruit which I sing;
The tree is so tall that no person could climb
To the boughs where the sugar-plums swing!
But up in that tree sits a chocolate cat,
And a gingerbread dog prowls below –
And this is the way you contrive to get at
Those sugar-plums tempting you so:

You say but the word to that gingerbread dog
And he barks with such terrible zest
That the chocolate cat is at once all agog,
As her swelling proportions attest.
And the chocolate cat goes cavorting around
From this leafy limb unto that,
And the sugar-plums tumble, of course, to the ground –
Hurrah for that chocolate cat!

There are marshmallows, gumdrops, and peppermint canes,
With stripings of scarlet or gold,
And you carry away of the treasure that rains,
As much as your apron can hold!
So come, little child, cuddle closer to me
In your dainty white nightcap and gown,
And I'll rock you away to that Sugar-Plum Tree
In the garden of Shut-Eye Town.



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

33 What is the poem all about?

- A. a tree of sweets in a young girl's imagination
- B. the big magical tree the speaker saw when he/she was a child
- C. the sugar-plum tree that the child gets to see when he/she sleeps
- D. the tree made out of sweet treats that is hidden in the woods

34 Which best describes the structure of the poem?

- A. the poem is a cinquain
- B. the poem is a sestet
- C. the poem is a septet
- D. the poem is an octave

35 What is the tone of the poem?

- A. excited
- B. humorous
- C. formal
- D. pessimistic

36 Who is the speaker of the poem?

- A. a parent trying to get his/her child to sleep
- B. a child imagining his/her favourite sweets
- C. a classmate telling imaginary stories to a friend
- D. a neighbour detailing the tree she just saw

37 What is the literary device used in the poem?

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

38 What is the rhyme scheme of the poem?

- A. ABABCD CD
- B. ABCDAB CD
- C. AABBCDD
- D. ABCABCDD

39 What does “Shut-Eye Town” in the last line mean?

- A. in the child’s imagination
- B. in a dark room
- C. in the child’s sleep
- D. in the child’s thoughts

40 What is the second stanza all about?

- A. the nice things which the tree has in store for you
- B. the obstacles one might face in getting the tree’s fruit
- C. the treats which the tree has grown
- D. the instructions on how to get the tree’s fruits

