

**Read the poem below then answer the questions that follow.**

## Disillusionment of Ten O'Clock by Wallace Stevens

The houses are haunted  
By white night-gowns.  
None are green,  
Or purple with green rings,  
Or green with yellow rings, 5  
Or yellow with blue rings.  
None of them are strange,  
With socks of lace  
And beaded ceintures.  
People are not going 10  
To dream of baboons and periwinkles.  
Only, here and there, an old sailor,  
Drunk and asleep in his boots,  
Catches tigers  
In red weather. 15

- 4 Lines 12 to 15 talk about sailors who are asleep. How are their dreams any different from the other residents?
- A. Their dreams are more solemn.
  - B. Their dreams are much more exciting.
  - C. Their dreams are mentally harder to forget.
  - D. Their dreams are mentally harder to remember.
- 5 What robs the people of their individuality and even of their humanity itself, as suggested by the poem?
- A. Conformity
  - B. Imagination
  - C. Dullness
  - D. Liberty
- 6 According to the speaker, amongst all the similar people in the town, there are a few interesting people. Who is the speaker referring to?
- A. The beaded ceintures
  - B. The baboons
  - C. The old sailors
  - D. The tigers
- 7 What rhyme scheme is utilised in the poem?
- A. ABAB
  - B. ABCB
  - C. ABABBCBC
  - D. Free verse
- 8 The following statements are true about the poem EXCEPT –
- A. The poem explores the connection between the real world and the world of imagination.
  - B. The poem depicts the speaker's dissatisfaction with a population whose lives are predictable and boring.
  - C. The speaker criticises the absurdity of the sailors' dreams about grabbing hold of tigers under a red sky.
  - D. The speaker describes a group of individuals whose plain white nightgowns mirror the simplicity of their dreams in contrast to the colourful and vivid dreams of an old sailor.

### What Have We Done Today? by Nixon Waterman

We shall do so much in the years to come,

But what have we done today?  
 We shall give our gold in a princely sum,  
 But what did we give today?  
 We shall lift the heart, and dry the tear,  
 We shall plant a hope in the place of fear,  
 We shall speak the words of love and cheer,  
 But what did we speak today?

We shall be so kind in the afterwhile,  
 But what have we been today?  
 We shall bring to each lonely life a smile,  
 But what have we brought today?  
 We shall give to truth a grander birth,  
 And to steadfast faith a deeper worth,  
 We shall feed the hungering souls of earth,  
 But whom have we fed today?

We shall reap such joys in the by and by,  
 But what have we sown today?  
 We shall build us mansions in the sky,  
 But what have we built today?  
 'Tis sweet in idle dreams to bask,  
 But here and now do we do our task?  
 Yes, this is the thing our souls must ask,  
 "What have we done today?"

5

10

15

20



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

**9 What is the message of the poem for the readers?**

- A. Our imagination is the only limit to what we can hope to have in the future.
- B. The future always arrives too fast... and in the wrong order.
- C. What matters is what you do today, not what happened in the past or what your plans are for the future.
- D. Once you have glimpsed the world as it might be, it is impossible to live any more complacent in the world as it is.

**10 In lines 17 to 18, what does the speaker want to earn as a form of accomplishment?**

- A. Rue
- B. Nirvana
- C. Entertainment
- D. Happiness

11 The last lines in every stanza of the poem ask a particular question. What is the purpose of these questions?

- A. To keep readers in check of the things they had accomplished for the day.
- B. To inform readers of the things they need to accomplish for the day.
- C. To entertain readers of the fun things the speaker accomplished on a day of his life.
- D. To prove readers that a lot can be accomplished in a day as long as they are motivated.

12 The following emotions are manifested in the poem EXCEPT

- A. Self-doubt
- B. Spiteful
- C. Uncertainty
- D. Reflective

13 How do you interpret the speaker's conduct throughout the entire poem?

- A. The speaker is agitated
- B. The speaker is furious
- C. The speaker is weary
- D. The speaker is contemplative

14 Which of the themes below is NOT taken from the poem?

- I. Contemplation
- II. Uncertainty
- III. Reflection
- IV. Contempt

- A. I and II
- B. II and III
- C. III and IV
- D. All of the above

15 Line 21 mentioned, "bask". How is this word used in the poem?

- A. To predict the sweetness of idle dreams.
- B. To tell readers the importance of sleeping in idle dreams.
- C. To express that it is nice to lie in idle dreams.
- D. To compare the difference between idleness and dreaming.

16 Which part of speech does the word "hungering" in line 15 belong to?

- A. Noun

- B. Verb
- C. Pronoun
- D. Adjective

### The Schoolboy by William Blake

I love to rise in a summer morn,  
 When the birds sing on every tree;  
 The distant huntsman winds his horn,  
 And the skylark sings with me:  
 O what sweet company! 5

But to go to school in a summer morn, -  
 O it drives all joy away!  
 Under a cruel eye outworn,  
 The little ones spend the day  
 In sighing and dismay. 10

Ah then at times I drooping sit,  
 And spend many an anxious hour;  
 Nor in my book can I take delight,  
 Nor sit in learning's bower,  
 Worn through with the dreary shower. 15

How can the bird that is born for joy  
 Sit in a cage and sing?  
 How can a child, when fears annoy,  
 But droop his tender wing,  
 And forget his youthful spring! 20

O father and mother if buds are nipped,  
 And blossoms blown away;  
 And if the tender plants are stripped  
 Of their joy in the springing day,  
 By sorrow and care's dismay, - 25

How shall the summer arise in joy,  
 Or the summer fruits appear?  
 Or how shall we gather what griefs destroy,  
 Or bless the mellowing year,  
 When the blasts of winter appear? 30



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

17 What does the speaker talk about in the entire first stanza?

- A. The adventures he missed
- B. All the bird he treasures
- C. The lovely summer morning
- D. The things he loves

18 Which of the following lines presents the reason for the speaker's misery?

- A. Line 3
- B. Line 6
- C. Line 12
- D. Line 21

19 Which best summarises the third stanza?

- A. The speaker desires to attend school but loathes taking early morning showers.
- B. The speaker admires the joys of learning yet waking up early to go to school is absurd to him.
- C. The speaker is not against education. Instead, the structure of "school" is intolerable to him.
- D. The speaker recognises the importance of education yet he wants it to be done in the four corners of his home.

20 What does the "bird" in line 16 symbolise?

- A. The speaker and others who think like him
- B. The skylark mentioned in line four
- C. The speaker's infinite possibilities
- D. The transition between life and death

21 In the poem, the word "cage" is a metaphor for?

- A. Childhood
- B. House
- C. School
- D. Jail

22 In lines 18 to 20, what is the speaker trying to convey on behalf of other children?

- A. He contends that children can only feel contentment after acquiring a degree.
- B. He asserts that children can obtain better employment if they complete their education.
- C. He says that because children are the sole hope for a better future, they do not need to feel so terrible during childhood.



- D. He claims concern for their welfare since, like himself, these children are missing out on the delights of childhood.

**23 What form of poetry does the poem belong to?**

- A. Blank verse
- B. Pastoral
- C. Sonnet
- D. Limerick

**24 Which of the themes below is NOT taken from the poem?**

- A. Love
- B. Youth
- C. Education
- D. Freedom

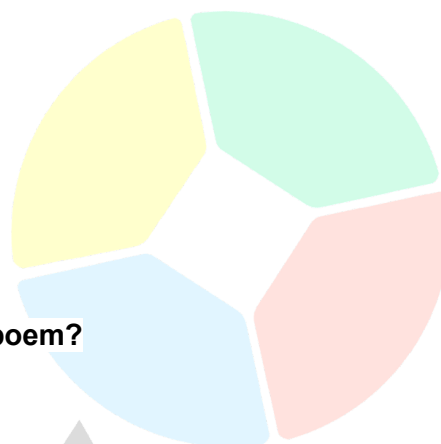
### First Fall by Maggie Smith

I'm your guide here. In the evening-dark  
morning streets, I point and name.  
Look, the sycamores, their mottled,  
paint-by-number bark. Look, the leaves  
rusting and crisping at the edges. 5  
I walk through Schiller Park with you  
on my chest. Stars smoulder well  
into daylight. Look, the pond, the ducks,  
the dogs paddling after their prized sticks.  
Fall is when the only things you know 10  
because I've named them  
begin to end. Soon I'll have another  
season to offer you: frost soft  
on the window and a porthole  
sighed there, ice sleeving the bare 15  
grey branches. The first time you see  
something perish, you won't know it might  
come back. I'm desperate for you  
to love the world because I brought you here.

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

**25 What does the word "mottled" in line 3 mean?**

- A. Marked with spots or smears of colour



- B. A coat of a dapple grey horse
- C. Monochromatic
- D. Creating a strong smell

**26 The speaker used the phrase “paint-by-number” to emphasize**

- A. Her strong love for painting
- B. The multicoloured nature of the trees
- C. Kits that have a board which contains light markings indicate areas to paint
- D. Having sections with different numbers showing which colours should be used to fill them in

**27 Which line/s of the poem did the speaker officially reveal who the addressee is supposed to be?**

- A. Lines 1 to 2
- B. Lines 6 to 7
- C. Lines 11 to 12
- D. Lines 18 to 19

**28 Besides Fall, what other season was mentioned in the poem?**

- A. Summer
- B. Spring
- C. Winter
- D. Monsoon

**29 How do you interpret the speaker's behaviour throughout the entire poem?**

- A. The speaker had a hard time pointing out great things about fall.
- B. The speaker was bothered to share the beauty of fall with the child.
- C. The speaker felt obligated to talk about fall when her favourite season was spring.
- D. The speaker was dedicated to making sure the child would come to love the world as she does.

**30 What does the poem say about the speaker?**

- A. She is a loving individual
- B. She is a supporter of tough love
- C. She is loud and opinionated
- D. She is easygoing and validating

**31 Which of the following is the message conveyed in lines 18 and 19?**

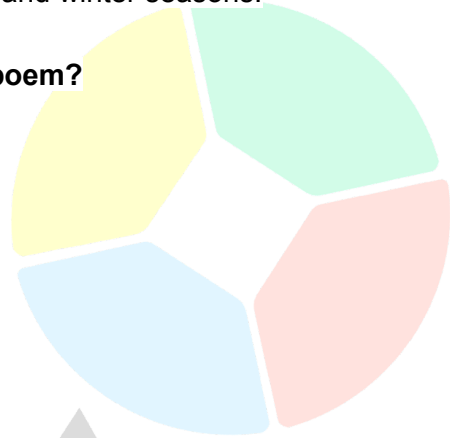
- A. It reflects the difficulties of parenthood, which transcend the fall and winter seasons.
- B. It evokes the vast history of mothers or, more generally, of parents and children.



- C. The speaker states directly to the child that she desires for them to love the world because she brought them here.
- D. It reflects the parental responsibilities that span the fall and winter seasons.

32 Which of the themes below is NOT taken from the poem?

- A. Change
- B. Life
- C. Happiness
- D. Camaraderie



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