

Stanzas from 'Dust of Snow' & 'Fire and Ice'

Read the following stanzas carefully.

9.

The way a crow Shook down on me The dust of snow From a hemlock tree	Has given my heart A change of mood And saved some part Of a day I had rued.
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Now, answer the following questions.

1. What did the crow do to the poet?
2. From which tree did the dust of snow fall?
3. How did the poet feel after the incident? ()
a) angry and frustrated b) happy and refreshed c) indifferent and careless
4. What does the phrase 'a change of mood' mean? ()
a) The poet felt worse than before
b) The poet's sorrow turned into joy
c) The poet became sleepy
5. What did the poet say he had rued? ()
a) A bad day b) A good experience c) A joyful memory

ANSWERS

1. The crow shook down the dust of snow on the poet. 2. The dust of snow fell from a hemlock tree. 3. b 4. b 5. a

10.

Some say the world will end in fire
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favour fire.

Now, answer the following questions.

1. What are the two ways in which some say the world will end?
2. With whom does the poet agree?
3. What does 'fire' symbolise in the poem? ()
a) Love and affection b) Desire and greed c) Light and warmth
4. What does the poet mean by 'From what I've tasted of desire'? ()
a) He has never experienced desire
b) He believes desire is powerful
c) He dislikes the idea of desire
5. Which word in the stanza means 'support'? ()
a) favour b) perish c) suffice

ANSWERS

1. Some say the world will end in fire, while others say it will end in ice.
2. The poet agrees with those who favour fire. 3. b 4. b 5. a

11.

But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.

Now, answer the following questions.

1. What does the poet think would be the second possible cause of the world's destruction?
2. What does 'ice' symbolise in the poem?
3. How does the poet describe the power of ice? ()
a) weak and ineffective b) destructive but sufficient c) peaceful and calm
4. What does the poet mean by 'if it had to perish twice'? ()
a) The world may end more than once
b) The world cannot be destroyed
c) Destruction will come only once
5. Which word in the stanza means 'to be enough'? ()
a) perish
b) suffice
c) favour

ANSWERS

1. The poet thinks ice could also destroy the world. 2. Ice symbolises hatred and cold indifference. 3. b 4. a 5. b

Stanzas from 'A Tiger in the Zoo'

Read the following stanzas carefully.

6. He stalks in his vivid stripes
The few steps of his cage,
On pads of velvet quiet,
In his quiet rage.
He should be lurking in shadow,
Sliding through long grass
Near the water hole
Where plump deer pass.

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Now, answer the following questions.

1. Where is the tiger in the first stanza ?
2. Why should the tiger lurk in the shadow ?
3. What emotion does the tiger show ? ()
 - a) Unexposed anger
 - b) Unexposed hunger
 - c) Unexposed happiness
4. Who passes by the water hole ? ()
 - a) Fat deer
 - b) Fat elephant
 - c) Fat hound
5. Where should the tiger hide himself ? ()
 - a) Near the tree
 - b) In the long grass
 - c) Near the water hole

ANSWERS

1. The tiger is in the zoo.
2. The tiger lurk in the shadow to hunt the deer.
3. a
4. a
5. b

Stanzas from 'How to Tell Wild Animals' & 'The Ball Poem'

Read the stanzas from 'How to Tell Wild Animals'.

7. If ever you should go by chance
To jungles in the east;
And if there should to you advance
A large and tawny beast,
If he roars at you as you're dyin'
You'll know it is the Asian Lion...

Now, answer the following questions.

1. What is the setting of the poem?
2. What happens if the speaker encounters the beast?
3. What is the "large and tawny beast" mentioned in the poem? ()
a) A tiger b) An Asian lion c) A bear
4. What is the beast's action in the poem? ()
a) It roars b) It runs away c) It sits quietly
5. 'Tawny' means ____ ()
a) Bluish-orange b) Brownish-orange c) Greenish-yellow

ANSWERS

1. The setting is jungles in the east. 2. The speaker will die if the beast encounters him/her. 3. b 4. a 5. b

8.

Or if some time when roaming round,
A noble wild beast greets you,
With black stripes on a yellow ground,
Just notice if he eats you.
This simple rule may help you learn
The Bengal Tiger to discern.

Now, answer the following questions.

1. What physical features of the beast are described?
2. What does 'ground' refer to?
3. The beast is a ____ ()
 - a) Jaguar
 - b) Bengal Tiger
 - c) Puma
4. Where is the Bengal tiger found according to the poem? ()
 - a) In the jungles of Africa
 - b) In the Arctic
 - c) In the jungles of the east
5. The beast is referred to as noble because ____ ()
 - a) Its hunting is driven by hunger not fun
 - b) It was once kept as pet by noble families
 - c) It can fly

ANSWERS

1. The physical features of the beast described are the black stripes on yellow background. 2. 'Ground' refers to background. 3. b 4. c 5. a

9. If when you're walking round your yard
You meet a creature there,
Who hugs you very, very hard,
Be sure it is a Bear.
If you have any doubts, I guess
He'll give you just one more caress

Now, answer the following questions.

1. What does the creature described in the stanza do?
2. What will the creature do if you have any doubts?
3. What is the creature described in the poem? ()
a) A lion b) A bear c) A tiger
4. Where could the creature be seen? ()
a) In the yard b) In the desert c) In the sea
5. The creature's hug is __ ()
a) soothing b) warm c) deadly

ANSWERS

1. The creature hugs us very hard. 2. If we have any doubts, the creature will give one more caress/hug. 3. b 4. a 5. c

10. Though to distinguish beasts of prey
A novice might nonplus,
The Crocodile you always may
Tell from the Hyaena thus:
Hyaenas come with merry smiles;
But if they weep they're Crocodiles.

Now, answer the following questions.

1. What is characteristic of hyaenas?
2. What does the poet say a crocodile does? ()
3. A novice means ____ ()
 - a) a kid
 - b) an expert
 - c) an inexperienced person
4. What does 'nonplus' suggest? ()
 - a) Confuse
 - b) Undo
 - c) Scare
5. What does 'prey' mean? ()
 - a) Kneel down
 - b) Request
 - c) Food

ANSWERS

1. A smile is characteristic of hyaenas. 2. A crocodile weeps. 3. c 4. a 5. c

Read the stanzas from 'The Ball Poem'.

11. What is the boy now, who has lost his ball,
What, what is he to do? I saw it go
Merrily bouncing, down the street, and then
Merrily over — there it is in the water!
No use to say 'O there are other balls':

Now, answer the following questions.

1. What was the boy's reaction to losing his ball?
2. What does the boy observe happen to the ball?
3. How does the boy feel about the ball being lost? ()
a) Indifferent b) Sad and distressed c) Angry
4. How does the ball bounce? ()
a) Merrily b) Slowly c) Unnoticed
5. What else can be seen in the water? ()
a) Other balls b) Piles of books c) Debris

ANSWERS

1. The boy was upset and distressed as he had lost his ball. 2. The boy saw the ball bounce down the street and into the water. 3. b 4. a 5. a

12.

People will take
Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy.
And no one buys a ball back. Money is external.
He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes,
The epistemology of loss, how to stand up
Knowing what every man must one day know
And most know many days, how to stand up.

Now, answer the following questions.

1. What lesson is the boy learning in this stanza?
2. What does the speaker mean by "epistemology of loss"?
3. What does the phrase "Money is external" suggest? ()
 - a) Money can solve all problems
 - b) Money is not important in this situation
 - c) Money is the only way to gain possessions
4. What is the significance of the boy's "desperate eyes"? ()
 - a) They show his confusion about loss
 - b) They indicate his fear of losing more
 - c) They show that he is learning a hard truth
5. What must every man learn according to the passage? ()
 - a) How to earn money
 - b) How to stand up after facing loss
 - c) How to win in life

ANSWERS

1. The boy is learning about the inevitability of loss. 2. The epistemology of loss is the study of how loss is understood. 3. b 4. c 5. b

Stanzas from 'Amanda' (Poem)

Read the stanzas.

5.

Don't bite your nails, Amanda!
Don't hunch your shoulders, Amanda!
Stop that slouching and sit up straight, Amanda!
(There is a languid, emerald sea,
where the sole inhabitant is me—
a mermaid, drifting blissfully.)

Now, answer the following questions.

1. Do you think Amanda is a well-disciplined girl? Justify your answer.
2. What are the instructions given to Amanda?
3. How does Amanda imagine herself? ()
a) Mermaid b) Emerald Sea c) Inhabitant
4. Who is addressing Amanda? ()
a) mother b) brother c) cousin
5. Where does a Mermaid live? ()
a) sea b) valley c) mountains

ANSWERS

1. No, Amanda is not portrayed as a well-disciplined girl. Throughout the poem, Amanda is constantly scolded for not following her mother's instructions to be disciplined.
2. Amanda was given instructions such as not to bite nails, not to hunch the shoulders and to sit straight.
3. a 4. a 5. a

3. Did you finish your homework, Amanda?
Did you tidy your room, Amanda?
I thought I told you to clean your shoes, Amanda!
(I am an orphan, roaming the street.
I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.
The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.)

Now, answer the following questions.

1. What tasks is Amanda being asked about?
2. How does Amanda respond to these demands?
3. What is Amanda imagining herself to be? ()
a) A princess b) An orphan c) A traveller
4. What does Amanda feel about the silence and freedom in her imagination? ()
a) They are burdensome
b) They are comforting and pleasant
c) They are overwhelming
5. What does "pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet" imply about Amanda's imagined environment? ()
a) It's noisy and chaotic b) It's peaceful and serene c) It's cold and harsh

ANSWERS

1. Amanda is asked if she finished her homework, tidied her room, and cleaned her shoes. 2. Amanda drifts into her own imagination, ignoring the demands. 3. b 4. b 5. b

7.

Don't eat that chocolate, Amanda!
Remember your acne, Amanda!
Will you please look at me when I'm speaking
to you, Amanda!
(I am Rapunzel, I have not a care;
life in a tower is tranquil and rare;
I'll certainly never let down my bright hair!)

Now, answer the following questions.

1. What is Amanda told not to do?
2. What are the complaints made about Amanda?
3. What is Amanda imagining herself to be? ()
a) Rapunzel b) Elsa c) A bee
4. What does Amanda think about her life in her imagination? ()
a) It is tranquil and rare
b) It is difficult and lonely
c) It is full of adventures
5. How does Amanda feel about the nagging in her real life? ()
a) She feels indifferent b) She feels frustrated c) She feels happy

ANSWERS

1. Amanda is told not to eat chocolate, to remember her acne, and to look at the speaker when being spoken to. 2. The complaints made about Amanda are that she sulks and she is moody. 3. a 4. a 5. b

Stanzas from 'The Tress'

Read the following stanzas carefully.

7. The trees inside are moving out into the forest,
the forest that was empty all these days
where no bird could sit
no insect hide
no sun bury its feet in shadow
the forest that was empty all these nights
will be full of trees by morning.

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Now, answer the following questions.

1. Where are the trees? ()
2. What did the trees decide? ()
3. Who are the visitors of the forest? ()
a) Birds and Insects b) Sun c) a & b
4. What change can one see in the morning? ()
a) The sun hides in the sky.
b) The forest will be full of trees.
c) The forest remains empty.
5. What is the figure of speech in the lines given? ()
a) simile b) metaphor c) personification

ANSWERS

1. The trees are inside. 2. The trees decided to move out into the forest.
3. c 4. b 5. c

All night the roots work
to disengage themselves from the cracks
in the veranda floor.
The leaves strain toward the glass
small twigs stiff with exertion
long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof
like newly discharged patients
half-dazed, moving
to the clinic doors.

Now, answer the following questions.

1. What metaphor is used to compare the movement of the boughs in the poem?
2. What does the phrase "half-dazed" imply about the state of the trees?
3. **How does the imagery in the poem suggest a struggle for the trees?** ()
 - a) The roots are visible
 - b) The leaves are detached
 - c) The roots work to disengage from the cracks
4. **In what way does the comparison of boughs to "newly discharged patients" enhance the poem's theme?** ()
 - a) It emphasizes the trees' health
 - b) It conveys a sense of recovery and movement towards freedom
 - c) It indicates a feeling of joy
5. **What overall transformation is implied through the actions of the roots, leaves, and boughs?** ()
 - a) A return to normalcy
 - b) A longing for sunlight
 - c) A release from confinement and a move toward growth

ANSWERS

1. The movement of the boughs is metaphorically compared to "newly discharged patients" moving to the clinic doors. 2. The phrase "half-dazed" implies that the trees are in a state of confusion or disorientation after their struggle. 3. c 4. b 5. c

I sit inside, doors open to the veranda
writing long letters
in which I scarcely mention the departure
of the forest from the house.
The night is fresh, the whole moon shines
in a sky still open
the smell of leaves and lichen
still reaches like a voice into the rooms.

Now, answer the following questions.

1. What activity is the speaker engaged in while sitting inside?
2. What does the speaker choose not to emphasize in the letters?
3. How does the imagery of the moon contribute to the poem's atmosphere?
a) It creates a sense of loneliness ()
b) It adds warmth and brightness
c) It suggests confusion
4. In what way does the phrase "the smell of leaves and lichen" function within the poem? ()
a) It evokes nostalgia and connection to nature
b) It serves as a distraction
c) It represents decay and loss
5. What can be inferred about the speaker's feelings toward the forest's departure? ()
a) The speaker is indifferent to the change
b) The speaker is deeply affected but choose to ignore it
c) The speaker is excited about the departure

ANSWERS

1. The speaker is engaged in writing long letters while sitting inside. 2. The speaker chooses not to emphasize the departure of the forest from the house.
3. b 4. a 5. b

Stanza from 'Fog'

Read the following stanza carefully.

7. The fog comes
on little cat feet.
It sits looking
over harbour and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on.

Now, answer the following questions.

1. What natural phenomenon is described in the poem?
2. How does the fog move according to the poem?
3. What imagery is used to describe the fog's coming? ()
 - a) It moves like a dog
 - b) It comes on little cat feet
 - c) It flies like a bird
4. What does the fog do while overlooking the harbour and city? ()
 - a) It plays
 - b) It sits silently
 - c) It dances
5. What does the phrase "silent haunches" imply about the fog? ()
 - a) It is stealthy
 - b) It is loud
 - c) It is heavy

ANSWERS

1. The appearance of fog is the natural phenomenon described in the poem.
2. The fog moves on silently after sitting. 3. b 4. b 5. a

Stanzas from "The Tale of Custard the Dragon"

Read the following stanzas carefully.

5.

Now the name of the little black kitten was Ink,
And the little grey mouse, she called him Blink,
And the little yellow dog was sharp as Mustard,
But the dragon was a coward, and she called him Custard.
Custard the dragon had big sharp teeth,
And spikes on top of him and scales underneath,
Mouth like a fireplace, chimney for a nose,
And realio, trulio daggers on his toes.
Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears,
And Ink and Blink
Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage,
But Custard cried for a nice safe cage.

Now, answer the following questions.

1. What did Custard, the dragon cry for?
2. How brave was Belinda?
3. What was the name of the little yellow dog? ()
a) Custard b) Mustard c) Blink
4. What did Ink and Blink do? ()
a) Chased barrel full of bears
b) Chased lions down the stairs
c) Cried for nice safe cage
5. Which of the following is TRUE according to the poem above? ()
a) Custard showed true courage.
b) Custard cried for an iron safe.
c) Belinda is the name of Dragon.

ANSWERS

1. Custard cried for a nice safe cage as he was a coward. 2. Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears. 3. b 4. b 5. a

6. Suddenly, suddenly they heard a nasty sound,
And Mustard growled, and they all looked around.
Meowch! cried Ink, and ooh! cried Belinda,
For there was a pirate, climbing in the winda.
Pistol in his left hand, pistol in his right,
And he held in his teeth a cutlass bright,
His beard was black, one leg was wood;
It was clear that the pirate meant no good.

Now, answer the following questions.

1. What unusual sound did Belinda and her pets hear?
2. Who entered the scene?
3. What weapons mentioned in the stanza? ()
 - a) A sword and a shield
 - b) A cutlass and a pistol
 - c) A knife and a dagger
4. What was notable about the pirate's appearance? ()
 - a) He wore a bright red coat
 - b) He was very tall
 - c) He had a wooden leg
5. What was the overall mood when the pirate appeared? ()
 - a) Fearful and tense
 - b) Joyful and celebratory
 - c) Calm and relaxed

ANSWERS

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1. Belinda and her pets heard a nasty sound. 2. A pirate entered the scene.
3. b 4. c 5. a
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7. The pirate gaped at Belinda's dragon,
And gulped some grog from his pocket flagon,
He fired two bullets, but they didn't hit,
And Custard gobbled him, every bit.
Belinda embraced him, Mustard licked him,
No one mourned for his pirate victim.
Ink and Blink in glee did gyrate
Around the dragon that ate the pirate.

Now, answer the following questions.

1. How did the pirate react when he saw Custard the dragon?
2. What did the pirate do to stop the dragon?
3. **How did Belinda and the other pets respond to Custard's actions?** ()
 - a) They celebrated and embraced him
 - b) They scolded him
 - c) They presented him with gifts
4. **What happened to the bullets?** ()
 - a) They ricocheted and hit the pirate
 - b) They pierced through the dragon
 - c) They did not hit the dragon
5. **What can be inferred about the pirate's fate?** ()
 - a) He escaped unharmed
 - b) He was completely eaten by Custard
 - c) He managed to flee the scene

ANSWERS

1. The pirate gaped at Custard and gulped some grog. 2. The pirate fired bullets to stop the dragon. 3. a 4. c 5. b

Stanzas from 'For Anne Gregory'

Read the following stanzas carefully.

6.

"Never shall a young man,
Thrown into despair
By those great honey-coloured
Ramparts at your ear,
Love you for yourself alone
And not your yellow hair."

Now, answer the following questions.

1. What does the speaker imply about young men and their feelings of despair?
2. What colour is mentioned in relation to the "ramparts"? ()
3. Why are the young men in despair? ()
 - a) They lost their jobs
 - b) The lady scolded them
 - c) They were not able to get the lady's love
4. What does 'rampart' literally mean? ()
 - a) a protective wall
 - b) an old building
 - c) a lock of hair
5. What does the speaker believe about genuine love in this context? ()
 - a) It is based on wealth
 - b) It cannot be based solely on physical attributes, such as hair colour
 - c) It is only for those with good looks

ANSWERS

1. The speaker implies that young men are often driven by their attraction to physical beauty. 2. The colour mentioned in relation to the "ramparts" is honey colour.

3.c 4.a 5.b

7. "But I can get a hair-dye
And set such colour there,
Brown, or black, or carrot,
That young men in despair
May love me for myself alone
And not my yellow hair."

Now, answer the following questions.

1. Who is the speaker?
2. What solution does the speaker propose to test true love?
3. What colours does the speaker consider using for her hair? ()
 - a) Yellow, blue and green
 - b) Green, pink and orange
 - c) Brown, black and carrot
4. What does the lady hope to find out by hair dyeing? ()
 - a) Whether young men love her physical beauty
 - b) Whether young men love her hair colour
 - c) Whether young men love her for what she is
5. What does the lady profess to emphasise? ()
 - a) True love
 - b) Physical beauty
 - c) Universal love

ANSWERS

1. Anne Gregory is the speaker. 2. The speaker proposes to use hair-dye and her hair colour to test true love. 3. c 4. c 5. a