

Winter Poem

By Nikki Giovanni

once a snowflake fell
on my brow and i loved
it so much and i kissed
it and it was happy and called its cousins
and brothers and a web
of snow engulfed me then
i reached to love them all
and i squeezed them and they became
a spring rain and i stood perfectly
still and was a flower

Question 1

The author, Nikki Giovanni, uses a word that means *surrounded* in “Winter Poem.” Write down the word from the poem that best represents that idea.

Question 2

“i stood perfectly
still and was a flower” is an example of

- a. alliteration
- b. metaphor
- c. hyperbole
- d. simile

Question 3

What’s unusual about the grammar and punctuation in this poem?

by Basho (1644-1694)

An old silent pond...
A frog jumps into the pond,
splash! Silence again.

Question 4

The word "splash!" is an example of

- a. alliteration
- b. hyperbole
- c. onomatopoeia
- d. personification

Fog

By Carl Sandburg

The fog comes
on little cat feet.

It sits looking
over harbor and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on.

Fog

By Janet M.

5 a.m.
the earliness of the morning weighed me down
like water in a cup
the harbor was still
so still the silence hummed
the fog rested at the rocky entrance of the harbor
billowing veils
paused
restrained
at the red buoy that sat angled in the water
then
like a bag of sugar bursting
it was released
floating
drifting
unrolling before me over the stillness
it surrounded me
I could only see the water
a cobalt gray
a red flag
sagging at the top of a sailboat
I breathed in the fog
it was cool and refreshing like October rain
I bathed in the calm
And then
My heart dropped
I remembered the sun would come up today

Question 5

Compare the points of view in the poem by Carl Sandburg and the poem by Janet M. Provide evidence to support your answer.

Question 6

Which poem uses personification and which poem uses similes?

Penny

By Kerri B.

Her little eyes peer,
Waiting for my glance.
Tail wiggles,
Ears perk.
Sad eyes stare me down.
Guilt sinks in,
And I become a slave
To throw and fetch.
I throw, she fetches.
I throw, she fetches.
I try to escape the house,
But those eyes drag me back.
Those adorable, irresistible eyes.
Yes, her little tipped ears
And her incessantly wagging tail
Can make a person's conscience act.
But her eyes can imprison you
In a never-ending game
Of throw and fetch.
Throw and fetch.

Question 7

Who is Penny? How do you know?

Question 8

What is the theme of the poem? How does the imagery in the poem contribute to the theme?

Question 9:

"Sad eyes stare me down" is an example of

- a. idiom
- b. metaphor
- c. personification
- d. hyperbole

He is my Great-Grandfather

By: Toby M.

He lives in Wisconsin
I live in New Hampshire
He is old
I am young
He is lonely
I am too

He is the one who put the
worm on my fishing pole
I am the one who threw the
line into the water
He is the one who helped me
bring in my first fish
I am the one who thought it
was a great blue whale
When in reality it was a five inch sunfish

He is the one I love
He is the one I always will

He is my great-grandfather
I am his great-grandson

Question 10

Who is the speaker of the poem? From what point of view is it told?

Question 11

What can we infer about the relationship between the great-grandfather and great-grandson? (Circle one on your worksheet)

- a. the great-grandson loves the great-grandfather more than the great-grandfather loves the great-grandson
- b. the great-grandson and great-grandfather are lonely because they only have each other
- c. the great-grandson can't fish without his great-grandfather
- d. the great-grandson and great-grandfather love each other

What evidence do you have to support your answer?

Remembrance

For my grandmother Clarice Smith Chapman, 1914-1989

By: Lindsay O.

I remember...we collected wild strawberries
And made mud pies and built
Block houses and guided
Our cart down the supermarket aisle
And picked carrots and washed
Dishes and baked cookies and cut
Paper dolls and watched chickadees
And played checkers and ate scrambled eggs and
Took our time on the stairs
And you never told me you were dying.

I wanted the chance to say goodbye.

Question 12

What's happening in the poem?

Question 13

How does the mood change from the beginning of the poem to the end of the poem?

To a Daughter Leaving Home

By: Linda Pastan

When I taught you
at eight to ride
a bicycle, loping along
beside you
as you wobbled away
on two rounded wheels,
my own mouth rounding
in surprise when you pulled
ahead down the curved
path of the park,
I kept waiting
for the thud
of your crash as I
sprinted to catch up,
while you grew
smaller, more breakable
with distance,
pumping, pumping
for your life, screaming
with laughter,
the hair flapping
behind you like a
handkerchief waving
goodbye.

Question 14

What is the mood of the poem?

- a. nervous
- b. silly
- c. hopeless
- d. excited

Question 15

How does the word choice and imagery contribute to the mood?

I need to find a place

By: Emily G.

I need to find a place
Where friendship never burns out.

I need to find a place
Where I can scream and shout.

I need to find a place
Where love is forever
Where you don't give up – never!

I need to find a place
That is comforting and calm.
A place – where nothing goes wrong.

Question 16

What is the theme of this poem?

- a. It's important to have a safe space where you're comfortable
- b. Screaming can only be done if you find a place to do so.
- c. Safety is impossible to achieve
- d. Once you have found a place your life will be perfect

What evidence can you use to support that?

Waiting for the Splash

By: Ralph Fletcher

Last night
after you hung up
I wrote you a poem
hoping it might change your heart.

This morning I tell myself:
Get serious, man.
Someone once compared
writing a poem
and hoping it will
change the world
to dropping rose petals
down a deep well

waiting for the splash

Question 17

What is the mood of this poem?

- a. dreamy
- b. confused
- c. confident
- d. hopeless

Within

By: Lindsay H.

There's a place within me
That sings like the sea
That dances like the ocean wind
Soft, but wild and free.

There's a place within me
That shifts like the sand
That swims like a graceful seal
Heading for the land.

There's a place within me
That sighs like the tide
That curls like a roaring wave
That the slick seals ride.

And when I walk
Upon the shore
I am not a girl
Anymore.
I slip into the sea
And
Sing
Dance
Shift
Swim
Sigh
And
Curl
Till the tide is low...
Once more, I'm a girl.

Question 18

List two uses of personification from the poem

Question 19

“And when I walk

Upon the shore

I am not a girl

Anymore.” is an example of

- a. alliteration
- b. personification
- c. idiom
- d. hyperbole

Time Somebody Told Me

By: Quantedius Hall

Time Somebody Told Me
That I am lovely, good and real
That I am beautiful inside
If they only knew
How that would make me feel.

Time Somebody Told Me
That my mind is quick, sharp
And full of wit
That I should keep on trying,
And never quit

Time Somebody Told Me
How they loved and needed me
How my smile is filled with hope
And my spirit sets them free
How my eyes shine, full of light
How good they feel when they hug me tight.

Time Somebody Told Me

So, I had a talk with myself
Just me, nobody else
'cause it was time
Somebody Told Me

Question 20

The line "Time Somebody Told Me" is an example of

- a. alliteration
- b. hyperbole
- c. personification
- d. repetition

A Slice of Life

By: Katherine T.

What's confusing as last week's science lab?
Can be as sweet as sugar?
Then, sharp as a knife?
Comes quickly
But with no instructions on how to handle it?
Can take you up to the stars
Or throw you sprawling against a rock?
Just when you think you've got it figured out,
It takes an unexpected turn.
Those who have lived it
Either warn you about the dangers it brings,
Or tell you to live it to the fullest.
Perhaps you know what I am talking about.
Don't let it pass by without making a mark
Or saving a memory, because
It will only come once, and soon the opportunities,
The moments, the dreams
Will all just be a slice of your past
The piece of life that we call
Adolescence.

Question 21

What is the author's purpose in writing this poem?

Question 22

List one example of imagery from the poem

Question 23

The author uses a word that means *to sit or lie with arms and legs spread out*.
Which word from this section best represents that idea?

Can take you up to the stars
Or throw you sprawling against a rock?
Just when you think you've got it figured out,
It takes an unexpected turn.

Only Human

By: Kerri B.

He sits over subway grates
Legs tucked up against his body
Wearing dirt-smudged khakis
And a ripped flannel shirt
That homeless man
Who reaches out his hand
And motions to a pan of pennies and nickels
That homeless man
Who people awkwardly step around
Not bothering to give a second glance
Like being poor is a disease
That can be caught
And spread
He sits
Like a stray dog
Flea-covered and matted
At night he curls in doorways
Aching with empty stomach pains
He is a veteran
A grandfather
A businessman
In need of love and care
He is a human being
Not a beggar
He speaks nothing but one plea
I beg of you
Feed me

Question 24

What does the author compare poverty to?

Question 25

What is the author's purpose in writing this poem? What does she want us to know or realize?

February Air

By: Paula M.

Bitter cold air
Nips
At my face
I tingle all over
Like a first love
Snow gusts and whirls
Chunks of sugar cubes
Dissolving in drifts of snow
Knee deep
My footsteps
Crunch
Like crackling
Cold cereal
Twisted branches
Follow me home
I walk fast
In the darkness
Of the night
Snowflakes of memory
Guiding me home

Question 26

“Crunch

Like crackling

Cold cereal”

Is an example of

- a. alliteration
- b. personification
- c. metaphor
- d. hyperbole