

Reverie : Poems

1 : The Darkling Thrush

–Thomas Hardy

Read the extracts of the poem and answer the following questions:

1. *I leant upon a coppice gate
When Frost was spectre-grey,
And Winter's dregs made desolate
The weakening eye of day.
The tangled bine-stems scored the sky
Like strings of broken lyres,
And all mankind that haunted night
Had sought their household fires.*
- (i) "I leant upon a coppice gate". What is the meaning of leant upon?
(a) Bent upon (b) Laid
(c) Sat (d) None of the above
- (ii) Coppice means:
(a) trees
(b) crow
(c) bird
(d) small woodland area of undergrowth and small trees
- (iii) The phrase "spectre-grey" means:
(a) grey ghost
(b) as grey as spectre
(c) grey specter
(d) spectre having grey colour
- (iv) How did the bine-stem score the sky?
(a) like a designed canopy
(b) like strings of a lyre
(c) like strings of broken lyres
(d) like the design of the logo
- (v) Why is the eye of the day weakening?
(a) due to the time of the dawn
(b) due to the time of twilight
(c) due to the bad weather of the day
(d) due to the season of winter
2. *The land's sharp features seemed to be
The Century's corpse outleant,
His crypt the cloudy canopy,
The wind his death-lament.
The ancient pulse of germ and birth
Was shrunken hard and dry,
And every spirit upon earth
Seemed fervourless as I.*
- (i) Who comprises the death-lament of the dead century?
(a) The thrush (b) The wind
(c) The cloudy sky (d) The poetic persona
- (ii) "His crypt the cloudy canopy". Here the word crypt means:
(a) mansion (b) cover
(c) vault or dome (d) manuscript
- (iii) The phrase "The Century's corpse outleant" means:
(a) the century is coming to an end
(b) the century is dying
(c) the dead body of the century is lying
(d) the dead body of the century is stretched out for burial
- (iv) The figure of speech used in the line "The Century's corpse outleant" is
(a) personification (b) allegory
(c) metaphor (d) simile
- (v) The phrase "The ancient pulse of germ and birth" refers to:
(a) the life full of emotional fervour
(b) the root of growth
(c) the emotion of birth
(d) the throbbing heartbeat of germination is dead
3. *At once a voice arose among
The bleak twigs overhead
In a full-hearted evensong
Of joy illimited;
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,
In blast-beruffled plume,
Had chosen thus to fling his soul
Upon the growing gloom.*

- (i) Name the speaker of the above lines.
 (a) Robert Frost (b) Thomas Hardy
 (c) Maya Angelue (d) Wordsworth
- (ii) 'At once a voice arose'. How did the poet react to the voice?
 (a) It jolted him out of his thoughts.
 (b) He was filled with remorse.
 (c) He felt impending doom.
 (d) He was indifferent to the song.
- (iii) The twig was said to be bleaking because :
 (a) it is raining
 (b) it shrivelled in the sun
 (c) dusk was descending
 (d) the poet's eyesight was failing
- (iv) What does the poet want to convey through this stanza?
 (a) A contrast between 19th and 20th century
 (b) A contrast between day and night
 (c) A contrast between the morning and evening
 (d) A contrast between appearance and reality
- (v) growing gloom' is an example of
 (a) Onomatopoeia (b) Simile
 (c) Personification (d) Alliteration
4. So little cause for carolings
 Of such ecstatic sound
 Was written on terrestrial things
 Afar or nigh around,
 That I could think there trembled through
- His happy good-night air
 Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
 And I was unaware.
- (i) Choose the option that best describe the word 'carolings'
 (a) Mournful religious tunes
 (b) Sober devotional numbers
 (c) Happy songs of celebrations
 (d) Joyful songs of worship
- (ii) The poem belongs to the genre of _____
 (a) Elegy (b) Ode
 (c) Sonnet (d) Ballad
- (iii) Where was the poet standing when the song burst on him?
 (a) In the courtyard of his house
 (b) At the forest gate
 (c) In a landscape garden
 (d) On the street
- (iv) The poem ends on a:
 (a) Sarcastic note
 (b) Humorous note
 (c) Ironical note
 (d) Optimistic note
- (v) When was the poem written?
 (a) on new year dawn
 (b) on eve of a passing century
 (c) on a wintry morning
 (d) on the first day of the 20th century

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs):

5. Which of the following establishes the setting of "The Darkling Thrush"?
 (a) "frost was spectre-grey"
 (b) "a coppice gate"
 (c) "strings of broken lyres"
 (d) "household fires"
6. Which of the following is not an example of antiquated diction?
 (a) "winter's dregs" (b) "bine-stems"
 (c) "coppice gate" (d) "corpse outleant"
7. "spectre-grey" foreshadows which of the following moments in the poem?
 (a) "some blessed hope"
 (b) "the century's corpse outleant"
 (c) "little cause for carolings"
 (d) "shrunk hard and dry"
8. Which of the following best expresses why Hardy personifies Frost in the first stanza?
 (a) To imply that the speaker follows a pagan understanding of natural gods
 (b) To suggest that the natural world works actively upon the human world
 (c) To suggest that frost is malicious
 (d) To introduce a character named Frost
9. Which of the following is an example of hyperbole?
 (a) "all mankind that haunted nigh/ had sought their household fires."
 (b) "every spirit upon earth/ seemed fervourless as I."
 (c) "so little cause for carolings/ of such ecstatic sound"
 (d) "at once a voice arose among/ the bleak twigs"
10. Which of the following best expresses the tone of the speaker in the poem "The Darkling Thrush"?
 (a) disappointed, unhinged
 (b) cynical, indifferent
 (c) pessimistic, despairing
 (d) joyous, optimistic
11. Which of the following best expresses the meaning of "outleant" in the line "The century's corpse outleant"?
 (a) revived (b) on display
 (c) escaped (d) leaning out

12. Which of the following is not an example of alliteration?
 - (a) "winter's dregs made desolate"
 - (b) "the century's corpse outleant"
 - (c) "his crypt the cloudy canopy"
 - (d) "in blast-beruffled plume"
13. What is the significance of the metaphor to "strings of broken lyres"?
 - (a) It suggests that classical poetry is no longer important.
 - (b) It suggests that poetry is also dying.
 - (c) It suggests that the speaker is distrustful of poetry.
 - (d) It suggests that song is the only way to bring the world back to life.
14. Which of the following best describes why Hardy may have written the thrush as "frail, gaunt, and small"?
 - (a) The thrush ultimately fails to break through the gloom of the poem.
 - (b) The thrush's song, and not its body, is what carries a possibility of hope.
 - (c) The speaker cannot perceive what the thrush really looks like.
 - (d) The malicious natural world always betrays heavenly ideals.
15. Which of the following is not an example of visual imagery?
 - (a) "the bleak twigs overhead"
 - (b) "wind his death-lament"
 - (c) "weakening eye of day"
 - (d) "the cloudy canopy"
16. What does "a full-hearted evensong" allude to?
 - (a) Popular music
 - (b) Greco-Roman music
 - (c) Archetypal bird song
 - (d) Christian church
17. Which of the following best approximates the meaning of the "pulse of germ and birth"?
 - (a) The cycle of decay and rejuvenation
 - (b) The cycle of sadness and joy
 - (c) The cycle of sickness and healing
 - (d) The cycle of potential and birth
18. Which of the following is an example of onomatopoeia?
 - (a) "blast-beruffled"
 - (b) "dregs made desolate"
 - (c) "cause for carolings"
 - (d) "such ecstatic sound"
19. What is being compared to in the lines ____
"The land's sharp features seemed to be
The century's corpse outleant"?
 - (a) The land and a corpse
 - (b) The land and a resurrection
 - (c) The land and a funeral
 - (d) The land and a grave
20. Which of the following best expresses the speaker's attitude towards rural places?
 - (a) Mourning
 - (b) Yearning
 - (c) Indifference
 - (d) Frustration
21. What is the significance of the numerous allusions in the poem "The Darkling Thrush"?
 - (a) Hardy is suggesting that his work is superior to any past poetic interpretation of bird song.
 - (b) Hardy is suggesting that poetry should not strive to be creative.
 - (c) Hardy is suggesting that the thrush's song isn't actually exciting.
 - (d) Hardy is suggesting that the past is present in poetry as it is in the world.
22. The season as highlighted in the poem "The Darkling Thrush" is:

(a) winter	(b) summer
(c) spring	(d) autumn
23. The rhyme scheme of the poem is:

(a) abcdab cd	(b) abab cdcd
(c) aabbcc dd	(d) none of these
24. The coppice gate on which the poet leant represents:
 - (a) The threshold of the new century
 - (b) Speakers stand
 - (c) Dark phenomenon
 - (d) Grey spectre

Fill in the blanks by choosing the most appropriate option:

25. The figure of speech used in the line, "the weakening eye of day" is _____.

(a) simile	(b) hyperbole
(c) personification	(d) alliteration
26. The poet was leaning against a _____.
 - (a) century's dead body
 - (b) wooden gate
 - (c) wall
 - (d) none of these
27. Literary device used in the line "like strings of broken lyres" is _____.

(a) simile	(b) metaphor
(c) alliteration	(d) hyperbole
28. The image used in the line "the cloudy canopy" is _____.

(a) auditory image	(b) visual image
(c) both a and b	(d) none of these

29. Winter's dregs refers to _____.
 (a) last portion or part of the winter
 (b) coming winter
 (c) winter night (d) none of these
30. So little cause for _____.
 (a) carolings (b) bleak
 (c) plume (d) ecstatic sound
31. Was _____ terrestrial things
 (a) spoke about (b) written on
 (c) thought of (d) read about
32. His happy _____ air
 (a) evening (b) morning
 (c) good-night (d) day
33. When Frost was _____.
 (a) spectre-grey (b) broken lyres
 (c) old (d) desolate
34. Had chosen _____ his soul
 (a) cause for (b) thus to fling
 (c) frail (d) gaunt

Match the following by choosing the most appropriate option:

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| 35. Column A | Column B | Options: |
| (i) Desolate | (a) A kind of stringed musical instrument | (a) (i)-b, (ii)-d, (iii)-a, (iv)-c, (v)-e |
| (ii) Carolings | (b) Cheerless | (b) (i)-c, (ii)-d, (iii)-e, (iv)-b, (v)-a |
| (iii) Lyre | (c) Conception and delivery | (c) (i)-a, (ii)-b (iii)-e, (iv)-c, (v)-d |
| (iv) Of germ and birth | (d) Singing of songs | (d) (i)-b, (ii)-e, (iii)-d, (iv)-c, (v)-a |
| (v) Bleak | (e) Dull and dark | |

Answers

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. (i) (b) laid
(ii) (d) small woodland area of undergrowth and small trees
(iii) (b) as grey as spectre
(iv) (c) like strings of broken lyres
(v) (d) due to the season of winter | 10. (c) pessimistic, despairing |
| 2. (i) (b) the wind
(ii) (c) vault or dome
(iii) (d) the dead body of the century is stretched out for burial
(iv) (a) personification
(v) (d) the throbbing heartbeat of germination is dead | 11. (b) on display
12. (b) "the century's corpse outleant"
13. (b) It suggests that poetry is also dying
14. (b) The thrush's song, and not its body, is what carries a possibility of hope.
15. (b) "wind his death-lament"
16. (d) Christian church
17. (d) the cycle of potential and birth
18. (a) "blast-beruffled"
19. (a) the land and a corpse
20. (a) mourning
21. (d) Hardy is suggesting that the past is present in poetry as it is in the world
22. (a) winter
23. (b) ababcdcd
24. (a) the threshold of the new century
25. (c) personification
26. (b) wooden gate
27. (a) simile
28. (b) visual image
29. (a) last portion or part of the winter
30. (a) carolings
31. (b) written on
32. (c) good-night
33. (a) spectre-grey
34. (b) thus to fling
35. (a) (i)-b, (ii)-d, (iii)-a, (iv)-c, (v)-e |
| 3. (i) (b) Thomas Hardy
(ii) (a) It jolted him out of his thoughts
(iii) (c) dusk was descending
(iv) (d) A contrast between appearance and reality
(v) (d) Alliteration | |
| 4. (i) (d) Joyful songs of worship
(ii) (d) Ballad
(iii) (b) at the forest gate
(iv) (d) Optimistic note
(v) (b) On eve of a passing century | |
| 5. (b) "a coppice gate" | |
| 6. (a) "winter's dregs" | |
| 7. (b) "the century's corpse outleant" | |
| 8. (b) to suggest that the natural world works actively upon the human world | |
| 9. (b) "every spirit upon earth/ seemed fervourless as I'." | |

2 : Birches

–Robert Frost

1. *When I see birches bend to left and right
Across the lines of straighter darker trees,
I like to think some boy's been swinging them.
But swinging doesn't bend them down to stay
As ice storms do. Often you must have seen them
Loaded with ice a sunny winter morning After a rain.
They click upon themselves As the breeze rises, and
turn many-colored
As the stir cracks and crazes their enamel.*
 - (i) What bends the birches to stay down?
 - (a) heavy drops of rain
 - (b) strong currents of wind
 - (c) a storm of freezing rain
 - (d) a stormy weather
 - (ii) Name the figure of speech in the usage of the word 'click' in the given stanza.
 - (a) alliteration
 - (b) rhyme
 - (c) oxymoron
 - (d) onomatopoeia
 - (iii) What is said to be the favourite pastime of a rural boy?
 - (a) playing baseball
 - (b) grazing the cows
 - (c) wandering over the hills
 - (d) swinging up the birches
 - (iv) Soon after this stanza, the poet refers to a colourful natural phenomenon. What is it?
 - (a) ice cubes cracking
 - (b) the clouds crashing down
 - (c) the sun kissed crystals shattering down
 - (d) a boy riding the branches
 - (v) Name the poetic device used to bring out the vision of the ground covered with ice.
 - (a) metaphor
 - (b) personification
 - (c) simile
 - (d) hyperbole
2. *though once they are bowed
So low for long, they never right themselves:
You may see their trunks arching in the woods
Years afterwards, trailing their leaves on the ground
Like girls on hands and knees that throw their hair
Before them over their heads to dry in the sun.
But I was going to say when Truth broke in
With all her matter-of-fact about the ice-storm
I should prefer to have some boy bend them*
 - (i) Mention the two figures of speech used in the above stanza.
 - (a) hyperbole and personification
 - (b) metaphor and simile
 - (c) simile and personification
 - (d) anaphora and simile
 - (ii) The poet uses a conversational style using 'you' several times. Name this type of poem.
 - (a) soliloquy
 - (b) dialogue
 - (c) dramatic monologue
 - (d) epic
 - (iii) 'I prefer to have some boy bend them'. In what frame of mind is the poet now?
 - (a) sorrowful
 - (b) resentful
 - (c) mournful
 - (d) nostalgic
 - (iv) The two conflicts presented in the poem are:
 - (a) world of reality and world of beauty
 - (b) world of indecision and world of reality
 - (c) world of beauty and world of trees
 - (d) world of fancy and world of reality
 - (v) Pick up Frost's theory related to poetry
 - (a) a thing of beauty is joy forever
 - (b) poetry is spontaneous overflow of intense emotions
 - (c) a poem elevates the soul to the abode of the divine
 - (d) a poem begins in delight and ends in wisdom
3. *I don't know where it's likely to go better.
I'd like to go by climbing a birch tree,
And climb black branches up a snow-white trunk
Toward heaven, till the tree could bear no more,
But dipped its top and set me down again.
That would be good both going and coming back.
One could do worse than be a swinger of birches.*
 - (i) According to the poet, where is it likely to go better?
 - (a) heaven
 - (b) imagination
 - (c) earth
 - (d) past life
 - (ii) To what decision does the poet come at the end?
 - (a) to live in the world of fancy
 - (b) to live in the real world of experience
 - (c) have the best of both worlds
 - (d) escape for a while but be rooted mostly
 - (iii) The poet says earlier "So was I once myself a swinger of birches." What quality of his is the poet referring to?
 - (a) poise
 - (b) care
 - (c) balance
 - (d) all the above
 - (iv) Why does the poet prefer to think branches are bent by the swinging boy?
 - (a) because the poet wants to escape from reality/drudgery
 - (b) because swinging offers the cow herd an enjoyable game

- (c) because it proves nature can be subdued
(d) because the boy can feel proud of his achievement
- (v) What idea in the poem lends it a universal appeal?
(a) all boys like to swing on trees
(b) desire to get away from the earth a while
(c) the transient nature of inner world
(d) every one desires to swing on birches
4. *You'd think the inner dome of heaven had fallen.
They are dragged to the withered bracken by the load,
And they seem not to break; though once they are bowed
So low for long, they never right themselves:
You may see their trunks arching in the woods
Years afterwards, trailing their leaves on the ground*
- (i) Soon after this stanza, the poet makes a comparison. To what does he compare the bending birches?
(a) to the dry bracken
(b) to broken glasses
(c) inner dome of heaven
(d) girls drying their hair
- (ii) Bring out the contrast in the first two lines of the poem.
(a) dark trees and white ones
(b) straight trees and supple ones
(c) flexibility of the birch and rigidity of the rest
(d) conformity and non-conformity
- (iii) In the given stanza heaven is a metaphor for:
(a) escapism
(b) a permanent place of calm and peace
(c) an ideal world of perfection
(d) a false sense of human limits
- (iv) Why does the author earlier say that he prefers to think some boy has bent the birches?
(a) imagination is more pleasing than reality
(b) because he wants to ride the birch again
(c) because he feels there is wisdom up the top
(d) all the above
- (v) Comment on the overlying attitude of the poem shown in the given lines of the extract.
(a) fun and frolic
(b) wonder and awe
(c) pessimism
(d) brooding sensibility
5. *He learned all there was
To learn about not launching out too soon
And so not carrying the tree away
Clear to the ground. He always kept his poise
To the top branches, climbing carefully
With the same pains you use to fill a cup
Up to the brim, and even above the brim.*
- (i) 'not launching out too soon'. This should be learnt:
(a) to avoid a fall
(b) to remain on top
(c) to escape the troubles on earth a little longer
(d) not to uproot the trees
- (ii) Which figure of speech is used in the last two lines?
(a) Exaggeration (b) Hyperbole
(c) Simile (d) Metaphor
- (iii) The last line of the extract refers to:
(a) balance on branch
(b) precision and care
(c) greed for more
(d) unsatisfied with result
- (iv) Comment on the use of 'you' used in the poem.
(a) to resonate with the boy
(b) to create a conversational style
(c) to give advice to common man
(d) to elevate it to universal level
- (v) 'He learned all there was to learn' expresses that:
(a) swinging the birch is not just a game
(b) swinging is a strenuous activity
(c) swinging is fraught with challenges
(d) swinging birches teaches a bitter lesson

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs):

6. Who is the speaker of the poem, 'Birches'?
- a man reflecting upon his boyhood
 - a girl who lives in the city
 - a cow
 - a small boy
7. What two different actions involving the birch trees does the speaker contemplate?
- The trees being climbed by children and the trees being cut down by lumberjacks
 - The trees being bent by a young boy and the trees being bent by an ice storm
 - The trees having their leaves knocked off like "shed crystal shells" and the trees being "bowed/So low for long, [that] they never right themselves"
 - The trees being painted by artists and planted by farmers
8. What kind of setting does the speaker seem to describe?
- a dystopian setting
 - an urban setting
 - a setting found in ancient history
 - a rural setting

9. What figurative devices does Frost utilise in the poem "Birches"?
 - (a) hyperbole, simile, imagery, and irony
 - (b) idiom, metaphor, allusion, and alliteration
 - (c) simile, metaphor, imagery, and alliteration
 - (d) irony, allusion, metaphor, and alliteration
10. Which words best capture the tone of the poem "Birches"?
 - (a) contemplative, expectant
 - (b) grave, despondent
 - (c) dreamy, content
 - (d) meditative, wistful
11. What does Frost compare with "Like girls on hands and knees that throw their hair/Before them over their heads to dry in the sun"? What type of figurative language is this?
 - (a) the young boy; imagery
 - (b) the arched trees; simile
 - (c) the boy's father; simile
 - (d) the arched trees; metaphor
12. What other line/lines in the poem seems to address the speaker's sentiment about the existence of a "swinger of birches" versus the existence of an older person?
 - (a) "So was I once myself a swinger of birches. / And so I dream of going back to be. / It's when I'm weary of considerations"
 - (b) "Some boy too far from town to learn baseball, / Whose only play was what he found himself, / Summer or winter, and could play alone"
 - (c) "When I see birches bend to left and right / Across the lines of straighter darker trees, / I like to think some boy's been swinging them."
 - (d) "I'd like to go by climbing a birch tree, / And climb black branches up a snow-white trunk / Toward heaven, till the tree could bear no more
13. The speaker suggests that he would prefer that the trees had been bent by a young boy rather than accept the "Truth" with "all her matter-of-fact about the ice-storm". What feelings or ideas do these details convey?
 - (a) a sense of tragedy in the destruction of the trees
 - (b) a wistfulness for childlike innocence and impermanence
 - (c) a contemplation of the inherent goodness of children versus the inherent corruption of adults
 - (d) ambivalence about the actual difference between lies that we tell ourselves and the truth we would prefer not to know
14. Identify the type of figurative language that these lines exhibit: "It's when I'm weary of considerations, / And life is too much like a pathless wood / Where your face burns and tickles with the cobwebs / Broken across it, and one eye is weeping"
 - (a) metaphor
 - (b) imagery
 - (c) Simile
 - (d) alliteration
15. What is one thing that the act of swinging might symbolize?
 - (a) the importance of scientific truth.
 - (b) the desire to escape reality.
 - (c) the desire for radical political changes.
 - (d) the importance of understanding formal philosophy.
16. In the poem "Birches," what does the poet like to think causes the branches to bend?
 - (a) the wind blowing
 - (b) a boy swinging on them
 - (c) the rain
 - (d) the weight of ice from an ice storm
17. In what poetic form is 'Birches' written in?
 - (a) Blank verse.
 - (b) Heroic couplet.
 - (c) Sonnet.
 - (d) There is no strict poetic form in the poem.
18. What actually bends the birches down to stay in Frost's poem, "Birches"?
 - (a) children playing on them
 - (b) broken branches
 - (c) heavy rains
 - (d) ice storms
19. As the boy climbs up the tree, he is climbing towards:
 - (a) another tree
 - (b) snowy hills
 - (c) heaven
 - (d) home
20. What does the pieces of ice on the ground appears to the poet?
 - (a) fern growing on earth
 - (b) pieces of broken glass
 - (c) pearls
 - (d) none of these
21. What causes the branches shed crystal balls?
 - (a) rain drops
 - (b) strong winds
 - (c) sunshine
 - (d) human disturbance
22. Who is the poet of the poem 'birches'?
 - (a) Mathew Arnold
 - (b) Robert Browning
 - (c) Wordsworth
 - (d) Robert Frost
23. To what nationality does the poet belong?
 - (a) Britain
 - (b) Ireland
 - (c) Wales
 - (d) New England

24. 'May no fate wilfully misunderstand me
And half grant what I wish and snatch me away
Not to return?' These lines express the poet's
(a) death wish
(b) fear of death
(c) misunderstanding of fate
(d) reluctance to come back
25. Which word from the following best gives the meaning of avalanche in the poem?
(a) gale (b) landslide
(c) cloud burst (d) snowslide
26. Cracks and crazes are words echoing sound. Mention two poetic devices to which these can be attributed.
(a) personification and alliteration
(b) metaphor and simile
(c) alliteration and onomatopoeia
(d) rhythm and simile
27. The characteristic of Truth as described in the poem
(a) flexible (b) pliable
(c) strong (d) matter of fact
28. What do the darker trees symbolically represent?
(a) age of the trees (b) adulthood
(c) non conformity (d) flexibility
29. Swinging is considered by the poet as
(a) an art
(b) a routine activity
(c) a poor alternative to baseball
(d) an easy, casual game
30. Poet says he wants to be a birch swinger because
(a) he does not want to return to earth
(b) he is frustrated with worldly life
(c) he wants to preserve the fragile and difficult balance of life
(d) there is no other pastime that can occupy his interest
31. Express in one phrase the message of the poem
(a) rooted in reality is the only way to live life
(b) a slice of imagination makes us see reality in another light
(c) flights of fancy blind us from seeing reality
(d) to reach the heights of imagination one has to ride a birch

Fill in the blanks by choosing the most appropriate answer:

32. In the poem "Birches" earth symbolizes _____.
(a) world of fancy
(b) perfect world
(c) world of harsh realities
(d) ideal world
33. Life in the poem "Birches" is compared to _____.
(a) pathless wood
(b) cobwebs
(c) battlefield
(d) rainbows
34. The figure of speech used in the line "that would be good both going and coming back" is _____.
(a) metaphor
(b) simile
(c) alliteration
(d) personification
35. The imagery used in the line "... trailing their leaves on the ground" is _____.
(a) auditory imagery
(b) kinesthetic imagery
(c) visual imagery
(d) olfactory imagery
36. The figure of speech used in the line "... like girls on hand and knees that throw their hair..." is _____.
(a) simile
(b) metaphor
(c) personification
(d) alliteration
37. But _____ them down to stay
(a) swinging bend
(b) swinging doesn't bend
(c) ice storms
(d) rain drops
38. Loaded with ice a _____ morning
(a) sunny winter
(b) cool winter
(c) hot
(d) hot summer
39. Soon the _____ makes them shed crystal shells
(a) heat of the day
(b) sun's warmth
(c) wind
(d) winter morning
40. Like girls on _____ that throw their hair
(a) trees
(b) birches
(c) branches of the trees
(d) hands and knees
41. With the _____ you use to fill a cup
(a) same pains (b) sorrow
(c) sadness (d) grief

Match the following by choosing the most appropriate option:

42. Column A	Column B	Options:
(i) cobwebs	(a) fragments of shining ice like pieces of broken glass	(a) (i)-b, (ii)-d, (iii)-a, (iv)-c, (v)-e
(ii) crystal shells	(b) dried-up fern	(b) (i)-c, (ii)-d, (iii)-e, (iv)-b, (v)-a
(iii) withered bracken	(c) bent down	(c) (i)-a, (ii)-b, (iii)-e, (iv)-c, (v)-d
(iv) subdued	(d) the top edge of a cup	(d) (i)-e, (ii)-a, (iii)-b, (iv)-c, (v)-d
(v) brim	(e) symbolic of confusion in life	

Answers

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| <p>1. (i) (c) a storm of freezing rain
(ii) (d) onomatopoeia
(iii) (d) swinging up the birches
(iv) (c) the sun kissed crystals shattering down
(v) (d) hyperbole</p> <p>2. (i) (c) smile and personification
(ii) (c) dramatic monologue
(iii) (d) nostalgic
(iv) (d) world of fancy and world of reality
(v) (d) a poem begins in delight and ends in wisdom</p> <p>3. (i) (c) earth
(ii) (d) escape for a while but be rooted mostly
(iii) (d) all the above
(iv) (a) because the poet wants to escape from reality/drudgery
(v) (b) desire to get away from the earth a while</p> <p>4. (i) (d) girls drying their hair
(ii) (d) conformity and non-conformity
(iii) (a) escapism
(iv) (d) all the above
(v) (b) wonder and awe</p> <p>5. (i) (d) not to uproot the trees
(ii) (d) Metaphor
(iii) (b) precision and care
(iv) (b) to create a conversational style
(v) (a) swinging the birch is not just a game</p> <p>6. (a) a man reflecting upon his boyhood</p> <p>7. (b) The trees being bent by a young boy and the trees being bent by an ice storm</p> <p>8. (d) a rural setting</p> <p>9. (c) Simile, metaphor, imagery, and alliteration</p> <p>10. (d) meditative, wistful</p> <p>11. (b) the arched trees; simile</p> | <p>12. (a) "So was I once myself a swinger of birches. / And so I dream of going back to be. / It's when I'm weary of considerations"</p> <p>13. (b) a wistfulness for childlike innocence and impermanence</p> <p>14. (b) Imagery</p> <p>15. (b) The desire to escape reality.</p> <p>16. (b) a boy swinging on them</p> <p>17. (a) Blank verse.</p> <p>18. (d) ice storms</p> <p>19. (c) heaven</p> <p>20. (b) pieces of broken glass</p> <p>21. (c) sunshine</p> <p>22. (d) Robert Frost</p> <p>23. (d) New England</p> <p>24. (b) his fear of death</p> <p>25. (d) snowslide</p> <p>26. (c) alliteration and onomatopoeia</p> <p>27. (d) matter of fact</p> <p>28. (b) adulthood</p> <p>29. (a) an art</p> <p>30. (c) he wants to preserve the fragile and difficult balance of life</p> <p>31. (b) a slice of imagination makes us see reality in another light</p> <p>32. (c) world of harsh realities</p> <p>33. (a) pathless wood</p> <p>34. (c) alliteration</p> <p>35. (c) visual imagery</p> <p>36. (c) simile</p> <p>37. (b) swinging doesn't bend</p> <p>38. (a) sunny winter</p> <p>39. (b) sun's warmth</p> <p>40. (d) hands and knees</p> <p>41. (d) same pains</p> <p>42. (d) (i)-e, (ii)-a, (iii)-b, (iv)-c, (v)-d</p> |
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5 : Crossing the Bar

–Alfred Lord Tennyson

1. *Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,*
 - (i) Who is the 'me' in the poem?
 - (a) Robert Browning
 - (b) Thomas Hardy
 - (c) Alfred Tennyson
 - (d) Robert Frost
 - (ii) The word 'moaning' here refers to:
 - (a) shouting of sailors
 - (b) sound of waves crashing against sandbar
 - (c) singing of carols
 - (d) insincere show of sadness
 - (iii) What is the tone of the poem?
 - (a) acceptance
 - (b) absolute trust
 - (c) submission
 - (d) all the above
 - (iv) The poem is seen as
 - (a) allegory
 - (b) elegy
 - (c) ode
 - (d) dramatic monologue
 - (v) What does the bar represent at a symbolic level?
 - (a) the sand bar of the sea
 - (b) the bar in the ship
 - (c) the barrier between life and death
 - (d) the division between God and man
2. *But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.*
 - (i) Why does the poet use 'But' in the first line of the given extract?
 - (a) to express his doubt
 - (b) death to portray fear
 - (c) to show his courage
 - (d) to create a contrast
 - (ii) What does he want the tide to be?
 - (a) uproarious
 - (b) playful
 - (c) turbulent
 - (d) calm and quiet
 - (iii) 'that' in the given stanza refers to:
 - (a) mind
 - (b) soul
 - (c) body
 - (d) flesh and blood
 - (iv) Which phrase from the following options best expresses the meaning of the line 'moving seems asleep'?
 - (a) walking in sleep
 - (b) wants to die in sleep
 - (c) disturbed sleep
 - (d) crossing silently and peacefully
 - (v) 'Turns again home' means
 - (a) life on earth is eternal
 - (b) death is just a stage
 - (c) death is the ultimate in human life
 - (d) death can wait
3. *Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;*
 - (i) Pick up the phrase that best expresses the meaning of evening bell:
 - (a) death knoll
 - (b) bell to announce prayer
 - (c) bell sound heard in the harbour
 - (d) all the above
 - (ii) What is mentioned by 'after that'?
 - (a) the sound of the bell
 - (b) sound of the wave
 - (c) sound of the vessel
 - (d) moaning sound
 - (iii) The poet does not want sadness of farewell because:
 - (a) he hates tears
 - (b) he wants to lead a peaceful life
 - (c) he feels all are fake
 - (d) he wants to depart peacefully
 - (iv) Where is the poet embarking for?
 - (a) to a foreign land
 - (b) to a familiar land
 - (c) where death would take him
 - (d) no man's land
 - (v) The last line of stanza is not completed and overflows into the next stanza. Name this type of poetic device.
 - (a) anaphora
 - (b) enjambment
 - (c) end rhyme
 - (d) line break
4. *For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.*
 - (i) Which idea is expressed in the phrase 'crost the bar'?
 - (a) crossing the line between thought and feel
 - (b) crossing the boundary that separates life on earth and the other world
 - (c) crossing the horizon
 - (d) crossing manmade rules

- (ii) Who is he going to meet face to face?
- the captain of the vessel
 - his maker
 - his fate
 - his friend
- (iii) 'bourne of Time and Place.' Which expression brings out the meaning best?
- born within time and place
 - beyond the limits of thought and action
 - boundary of life on earth
 - bounded by mortal aspirations
- (iv) The poet hopes that the tide would bear him to a particular destination. Which is that?
- abode of god
 - paradise
 - end of the world
 - the sand bar of life and death
- (v) By referring to the Pilot, the poet wants to establish that God guides him:
- in heaven
 - in the ship
 - at the cross bar
 - at all places mentioned above

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

- Give the symbolic meaning of 'bar' in the line, 'no moaning of the bar'.

 - Harbour sounds
 - sand bar in the sea
 - sounds within the ship yard
 - relations and things that bind the soul to the earth

- 'clear call' means

 - call of duty
 - call to be active
 - call of death
 - call for punishment

- The word 'flood' in the last stanza of the poem, 'Crossing the Bar' refers to:

 - journey of life
 - afterlife journey
 - the turbulence in the world
 - overflow of emotions

- The poet of the poem, 'Crossing the Bar' belonged to:

 - 18th century
 - Elizabethan age
 - Romantic age
 - Victorian age

- The poem suggests that death is a part of:

 - God's plan
 - human design
 - acceptance of suffering
 - cessation of life

- In the line 'I hope to see my Pilot face to face' the poet uses metaphor to compare pilot to:

 - Sky
 - Heaven
 - God
 - Death

- The poem 'Crossing the Bar' follows which form and structure?

 - Couplets
 - Sonnet
 - Quatrain
 - Quintain

- Which phenomenon is alluded to in the line- 'Too full for sound and foam'?

 - dozing off
 - an afternoon siesta
 - waking up from sleep
 - slipping into quiet, fitful sleep

- 'And may there be no moaning of the bar'-vowel sounds are repeated in the given line. What is this type of poetic device known as?

 - alliteration
 - oxymoron
 - assonance
 - flowing rhythm

- Afterlife journey will take poet to break away from the limitations of life. Which line in the poem brings out this idea?

 - but such a tide as moving seems asleep
 - twilight and evening bell/ And after that dark
 - bourne of Time and Place/The flood may bear me far
 - too full of sound and foam

- What does the last stanza of the poem, 'Crossing the Bar' express?

 - death has to be awaited
 - death is painful
 - death is a fearful plunge
 - death has to be serenely accepted

- Which figure of speech is used in the line 'moving seems asleep'?

 - Apostrophe
 - Transferred epithet
 - Euphemism
 - Personification

- The whole of the poem reflects the theme of-----

 - life in isolation
 - cycle of life and death
 - life after death
 - rejection of life

- Crossing the Bar focuses on the necessity of confronting death with-----

 - trepidation
 - presence of mind
 - stoicism
 - heroism

- Crossing bar is -----

 - breaking monotony of life
 - crossing barriers of care
 - act of dying
 - getting reconciled with one's lot

20. What does the line, 'when I put out to sea' means
 (a) beginning of sea fare as well as journey to the other world
 (b) when he considers his journey
 (c) journey of the mind
 (d) a fanciful trip
21. Sunset and evening star used in the poem, is a metaphor for-
 (a) birth
 (b) death in life
 (c) death and new life
 (d) reality and imagination
22. What is the fundamental biblical belief expressed in the last stanza of the poem?
 (a) Immortality of the soul
 (b) Man is the image of God
 (c) Death is to be feared
 (d) God is only in heaven
23. What dilemma was faced by the people of Victorian Age?
 (a) A conflict of life and death
 (b) A conflict connected with rituals
 (c) An opposing view related to Nature and disposition
 (d) A conflict related to science and religion

Fill in the blanks by choosing the most appropriate answer:

24. The death knell, which announces the arrival of death, is depicted through the _____ in the poem.
 (a) evening bell (b) the boundless deep
 (c) the bar (d) crossing the bar
25. The "bar" is given a human emotion of _____ in the poem.
 (a) weeping (b) crying
 (c) laughing (d) moaning
26. The poem opens with the reference of _____ and _____.
 (a) Morning star and sunrise
 (b) Sunset and morning star
 (c) Sunset and evening star
 (d) Sunrise and evening star
27. The poem is about journey into _____ from _____.
 (a) life, death (b) death, life
 (c) sleep, dreams (d) dreams, sleep
28. The poet uses the classical rhyme scheme of _____ in the whole poem.
 (a) abab (b) abba
 (c) abcb (d) abbc
29. And may there be _____ of the bar
 (a) happiness (b) sadness
 (c) no moaning (d) no crying
30. But such a tide as moving _____
 (a) seems asleep (b) seems awake
 (c) seems sleepy (d) seems lazy
31. And may there be no sadness of _____
 (a) parting (b) farewell
 (c) death (d) loss
32. The flood _____ me far
 (a) may wash (b) may drive
 (c) may bear (d) can reach
33. I hope to see my _____
 (a) evening bell (b) clear call
 (c) shadow (d) Pilot face to face

Match the following:

34.

(i)	Put out to sea	Moaning
(ii)	Sand bar	Alliteration
(iii)	Boundless deep	Death
(iv)	Clear call	Embark
(v)	Sunset	Home

Options:

- (a) (i)-b, (ii)-d, (iii)-a, (iv)-c, (v)-e
 (b) (i)-c, (ii)-d, (iii)-e, (iv)-b, (v)-a
 (c) (i)-a, (ii)-b (iii)-e, (iv)-c, (v)-d
 (d) (i)-d, (ii)-a, (iii)-e, (iv)-b, (v)-c

Answers

1. (i) (c) Alfred Tennyson
 (ii) (b) sound of waves crashing against sandbar
 (iii) (d) all the above
 (iv) (a) allegory
 (v) (c) the barrier between life and death
2. (i) (d) to create a contrast
 (ii) (d) calm and quiet
 (iii) (b) soul
 (iv) (d) crossing silently and peacefully
 (v) (b) death is just a stage
3. (i) (d) all the above

- (ii) (a) the sound of the bell
- (iii) (d) he wants to depart peacefully
- (iv) (c) where death would take him
- (v) (b) enjambment
- 4. (i) (b) crossing the boundary that separates life on earth and the other world
- (ii) (b) his Maker
- (iii) (b) beyond the limits of thought and action
- (iv) (a) Abode of God
- (v) (d) at all places mentioned above
- 5. (d) relations and things that bind the soul to the earth
- 6. (c) call of death
- 7. (b) afterlife journey
- 8. (d) Victorian age
- 9. (a) God's plan
- 10. (c) God
- 11. (c) Quatrain
- 12. (d) slipping into quiet, fitful sleep
- 13. (c) Assonance
- 14. (c) bourne of Time and Place/The flood may bear me far
- 15. (d) death has to be serenely accepted
- 16. (d) Personification
- 17. (b) cycle of life and death
- 18. (c) stoicism
- 19. (c) act of dying
- 20. (a) beginning of sea fare as well as journey to the other world
- 21. (c) death and new life
- 22. (a) Immortality of the soul
- 23. (a) A conflict of life and death
- 24. (a) evening bell
- 25. (d) moaning
- 26. (c) Sunset and evening star
- 27. (b) death, life
- 28. (a) abab
- 29. (c) no moaning
- 30. (a) seems asleep
- 31. (b) farewell
- 32. (c) may bear
- 33. (d) Pilot face to face
- 34. (d) (i)-d, (ii)-a, (iii)-e, (iv)-b, (v)-c