

POETRY

Spring – Gerard Manley Hopkins

- 1 Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –
- 2 When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;
- 3 Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush
- 4 Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring
- 5 The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;
- 6 The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush
- 7 The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush
- 8 With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.
- 9 What is all this juice and all this joy?
- 10 A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning
- 11 In Eden garden. – Have, get, before it cloy,
- 12 Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,
- 13 Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,
- 14 Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.

6.1.1 Give TWO reasons why this poem can be identified as a sonnet. (2)

6.1.2 Refer to stanza 1.

Using your OWN words, give TWO examples in this stanza to confirm the speaker's statement in line 1 ('Nothing is so beautiful as Spring'). (2)

6.1.3 Refer to line 2 ('When weeds, in ... lovely and lush').

(a) Identify the sound device used in this line. (1)

(b) Explain why this sound device is relevant to this poem. (2)

6.1.4 Why does the speaker make reference to 'echoing timber' (line 4)? (2)

6.1.5 Refer to line 6 ('The glassy peartree leaves and blooms').
What do the words 'glassy' and 'blooms' tell us about the 'peartree'? (2)

6.1.6 Refer to lines 1–8 ('Nothing is so ... fair their fling').
(a) Identify the tone used in these lines. (1)

(b) Why does the speaker use this tone in these lines? (1)

6.1.7 What is being compared in lines 10–11 ('A strain of ... In Eden garden')? (2)

6.1.8 Would you classify lines 11–14 ('Have, get, before ... worthy the winning') as a prayer?
Discuss your view. (3)

