Count That Day Lost

by George Eliot

If you sit down at set of sun
And count the acts that you have done,
And, counting, find
One self-denying deed, one word
That eased the heart of him who heard,
One glance most kind
That fell like sunshine where it went --
Then you may count that day well spent.

But if, through all the livelong day,
You've cheered no heart, by yea or nay --
If, through it all
You've nothing done that you can trace
That brought the sunshine to one face--
No act most small
That helped some soul and nothing cost --
Then count that day as worse than lost.

Basic Understanding

Draw lines to match the words from the poem with their Hebrew translation.

at set of sun	מבט
cheered	נפש, בן אדם
count	בשעת השקיעה
eased	למנות, לספור, להחשיב
glance	לעקוב אחרי
self-denying deed	לעודד, לשמח
soul	להקל על
trace	מעשה שדורש הקרבה מצדך

In your own words, what are the three things that can make your day worthwhile, according to George Eliot?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

In your own words, what are two things that can make your day worthless, according to George Eliot?

1. _____
2. _____

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Basic Understanding

What words from the poem are used in place of these more common words?

Stanza 1

1. Sunset: _____
2. Discover: _____
3. Selfless action: _____
4. Made the recipient feel better: _____
5. Consider your day worthwhile: _____

Stanza 2

1. Throughout your entire day: _____
2. You did nothing to make someone else's day better: _____
3. You can't think of anything you did: _____
4. Made someone smile: _____
5. Person: _____
6. Consider that day worthless: _____

How many stanzas are in this poem? _____

How many lines are in this poem? _____

What is the rhyme scheme of this poem? _____

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