

Chapter 15: Trees

Read the following lines from the poem and choose the correct interpretation from the given options.

1. "I think that I shall never see / A poem lovely as a tree."

- a) Trees are boring subjects for poetry.
- b) The poet plans to stop writing poems.
- c) Trees inspire bad poetry.
- d) No human-written poem can equal the beauty of a tree.

2. "And lifts her leafy arms to pray;"

- a) Trees physically pray to God.
- b) Branches resemble arms raised in worship.
- c) The tree is begging for water.
- d) Leaves are falling like praying hands.

3. "Upon whose bosom snow has lain;"

- a) Snow gently covering the tree like a blanket.
- b) Snow melting quickly on branches.
- c) The tree shivering in winter.
- d) A person hugging the tree.

4. "Poems are made by fools like me,"

- a) He regrets being a poet.
- b) He thinks all poets are foolish.
- c) He believes human creativity is flawed compared to nature's perfection.
- d) He plans to stop writing.

5. "But only God can make a tree."

- a) Trees are harder to plant than poems.
- b) Nature's beauty is divine and irreplicable by humans.
- c) God prefers trees over poetry.
- d) The poet wishes to become a tree.

Mutlipe Choice Questions

1. The opening lines "I think that I shall never see/A poem lovely as a tree" suggest that:

- a) The poet lacks confidence in his writing abilities
- b) Natural beauty surpasses artistic creation
- c) The poet prefers visual art to poetry
- d) Trees are difficult subjects to write about

2. The personification in "A tree whose hungry mouth is prest/Against the earth's sweet flowing breast" primarily serves to:

- a) Show the tree as a helpless creature
- b) Suggest that trees are aggressive
- c) Compare trees to human infants
- d) Create a maternal image of nature's nourishment

3. The religious imagery in "And lifts her leafy arms to pray" connects to the poem's central theme by:

- a) Suggesting trees are holier than humans
- b) Criticizing organized religion
- c) Equating nature with divine creation

- d) Showing the poet's personal faith

4. The summer/winter imagery in "A nest of robins in her hair" and "Upon whose bosom snow has lain" demonstrates:

- a) The cyclical harmony of nature
- b) The tree's vulnerability to seasons
- c) The poet's preference for summer
- d) How birds depend on trees

5. The line "Who intimately lives with rain" suggests the tree:

- a) Fears bad weather
- b) Has a symbiotic relationship with nature
- c) Grows only in rainy climates
- d) Stores water in its trunk

6. The contrast between "Poems are made by fools like me" and "only God can make a tree" emphasizes:

- a) The poet's lack of education
- b) That poetry is worthless
- c) That God disapproves of art
- d) The divine origin of natural beauty

7. The poem's structure (rhyme scheme, meter, and stanza form) contributes to its meaning by:

- a) Making it easy to memorize
- b) Creating a hymn-like quality that mirrors its reverence for nature
- c) Following strict classical conventions

- d) Highlighting the poet's technical skill

8. The shift from description to reflection in the final couplet serves to:

- a) Suddenly change the poem's subject
- b) Introduce a new character
- c) Prepare for another stanza
- d) Reveal the poem's central contrast between human and divine creation

9. Compared to Romantic nature poetry, Kilmer's approach differs by:

- a) Focusing more on religious awe than personal emotion
- b) Avoiding emotion completely
- c) Using more complex metaphors
- d) Rejecting formal structure

10. The poem's enduring popularity likely stems from its:

- a) Complex vocabulary
- b) Universal theme of nature's sacred beauty
- c) Political message
- d) Humorous tone

Types of Trees Quiz

1. Which tree is known for its bright red autumn leaves and helicopter-like seeds?

- a) Oak
- b) Maple
- c) Palm
- d) Pine

2. What type of tree grows cones instead of flowers?

- a) Cherry
- b) Willow
- c) Conifer
- d) Birch

3. The baobab tree, often called the "upside-down tree," grows in:

- a) Deserts
- b) Tropical rainforests
- c) Arctic tundras
- d) African savannas

4. Which tree produces acorns as its fruit?

- a) Oak
- b) Apple
- c) Coconut
- d) Redwood

5. Palm trees are adapted to grow in:

- a) Swamps
- b) Cold mountains
- c) Coastal/desert areas
- d) Grasslands