

# A Poison Tree / by William Blake

I was angry with my friend;  
I told my wrath, my wrath did end.  
I was angry with my foe:  
I told it not, my wrath did grow.

And I watered it in fears,  
Night & morning with my tears:  
And I sunned it with smiles,  
And with soft deceitful wiles.

And it grew both day and night.  
Till it bore an apple bright.  
And my foe beheld it shine,  
And he knew that it was mine.

And into my garden stole,  
When the night had veiled the pole;  
In the morning glad I see;  
My foe outstretched beneath the tree.



## Glossary

*Wrath* – rage  
*Deceitful* – cunning  
*Foe* – enemy  
*Veiled* – covered  
*Wiles* – tricks

Read the poem "A Poison Tree" by William Blake and answer the questions below.

- 1) Who does 'I' refer to in the first stanza? (Choose the right answer)
  - The speaker's friend.
  - The speaker.
  - The reader.
  - The speaker's enemy.

2) What emotion is expressed in Stanza 1 towards the friends? (Choose the right answer)

- a. Love
- b. Wrath
- c. Anger
- d. No emotion is being expressed.

3) In stanza 2, what was watered and with what? (Choose the right answer)

- a. The tree with water.
- b. The apple with the enemy's blood.
- c. The anger with fears.
- d. The wrath with tears.

4) "And I watered it in fears" (In stanza 2)

Why do you think was the purpose for that?

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5) In stanza 3, why do you think Blake chose an apple rather than a watermelon, or an orange?

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6) Blake uses metaphors from the world of gardening and plants to describe the growth of a certain emotion. What is the emotion and why, in your opinion, he uses these metaphors?

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7) "My foe outstretched beneath the tree" what does it mean? (Choose the right answer)

- a. His enemy is lying under the tree enjoying the sun.
- b. He bumped his toe in the tree.
- c. The death of his enemy.
- d. His foe is stretching under the tree.

8) How did the speaker feel when he saw his "foe outstretched beneath the tree"? (Choose the right answer)

- a. Happy
- b. Relived
- c. Sad
- d. Scared

9) Write the words that relates to anger and hate?

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10) What do you think the moral of the poem is?

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