

Directions: Read the poem below and answer the questions 1-6.

Wilbur Wright and Orville Wright
Rosemary and Stephen Vincent Benét

Said Orville Wright to Wilbur Wright
 "These birds are very trying.
 I'm sick of hearing them cheep-cheep
 About the fun of flying.
 A bird has feathers, it is true.
 That much I freely grant.
 But, must that stop us, W?"
 Said Wilbur Wright, "It shan't."



And so they built a glider, first,
 And then they built another.
 ---- There never were two brothers more
 Devoted to each other.
 They ran a dusty little shop
 For bicycle-repairing,
 And bought each other soda-pop
 And praised each other's daring.

They glided here, they glided there,
 They sometimes skinned their noses.
 ----For learning how to rule the air
 Was not a bed of roses---
 But each would murmur, afterward,
 While patching up his bro,
 "Are we discouraged, W?"
 "Of course we are not, O!"

And finally, at Kitty Hawk
 In Nineteen-Three (let's cheer it!)
 The first real airplane really flew
 With Orville there to steer it!
 ----And kingdoms may forget their kings
 And dogs forget their bites,
 But, not till Man forgets his wings,
 Will men forget the Wrights.

1. (Analyze Text)

For learning how to rule the air --- Was not a bed of roses... What do these words imply?

- a. that it had no real importance
- b. that it was as easy as planting flowers
- c. that it took too long to accomplish
- d. that it was a very difficult task.

2. (Conclusions/Inferences)

Based on the text, how do the poets feel about the Wright brothers?

- a. The poets think the brothers are to be admired.
- b. The poets think of the brothers as friends.
- c. The poets think the brothers drank too much soda pop.
- d. The poets think the brothers were careless.

3. (Details/Facts)

According to the poem, what business did the Wrights work at together?

- a. bottling soda pop
- b. canning vegetables
- c. repairing bicycles
- d. selling bicycles

4. (Cause and Effect)

What happened when the brothers heard the birds "cheep cheep about the fun of flying?"

- a. Orville became very ill.
- b. They started trying to make a glider.
- c. They praised each other's daring.
- d. Wilbur bought Orville a soda pop.

5. (Main Idea / Essential Message)

Which stanza best express the main idea of the poem?

- a. Stanza 1
- b. Stanza 2
- c. Stanza 3
- d. Stanza 4

6. (Synthesis)

Why did the author choose to highlight this particular subject? Use specific information and details from the passage to support your answer.