

CHAPTER 11 HOW BEAUTIFUL IS THE RAIN

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

1. "He can feel the cool / Breath of each little pool"
 - a) The sick man finds relief as the rain cools the air and creates tiny puddles.
 - b) The poet describes how fish emerge from small ponds after the rain.
 - c) Children play in the water, enjoying the freshness of the pools.
 - d) The sun evaporates the rainwater, making the air humid again.
2. "How it clatters along the roofs, / Like the tramp of hoofs"
 - a) Thunder rumbles loudly, scaring people indoors.
 - b) Hailstones fall violently, damaging houses.
 - c) The rain sounds like galloping horses as it hits the rooftops.
 - d) Birds take shelter under roofs, flapping their wings noisily.
3. "And down the wet streets / Sail their mimic fleets"
 - a) Fishermen take their boats out after the streets flood.
 - b) Merchants transport goods on carts through muddy lanes.
 - c) Soldiers march through the city, splashing water everywhere.
 - d) Children float paper boats in rainwater flowing through the streets.
4. "Like a leopard's tawny and spotted hide, / Stretches the plain"
 - a) A real leopard walks across the field, leaving paw prints.

b) The dry, cracked earth resembles a leopard's skin before the rain.

c) Farmers plant crops in patterns that look like animal spots.

d) The poet compares fast-moving storm clouds to a running leopard.

5. "How welcome is the rain!"

a) Everyone—farmers, children, and the sick—rejoices at the rain's arrival.

b) Only animals benefit, as they drink from new puddles.

c) The rain causes floods, ruining crops and homes.

d) People hide indoors, annoyed by the sudden downpour.

6. "The sick man from his chamber looks / At the twisted brooks"

a) A doctor examines polluted water flowing near a hospital.

b) A child draws pictures of rivers from his window.

c) A traveler gets lost as paths are erased by flooding.

d) A bedridden man watches rainwater form winding streams, feeling soothed.

7. "How it gushes and struggles out / From the throat of the overflowing spout!"

a) A fountain sprays water gracefully in a town square.

b) A person coughs violently while drinking rainwater.

c) Water bursts forcefully from clogged drains during heavy rain.

d) A dam breaks, causing a dangerous flood downstream.

8. "With more than their wonted noise / And commotion"

a) Thunderstorms create chaos, frightening villagers.

b) School children cheer and play louder than usual in the rain.

c) A festival begins with drums and shouting.

d) Street vendors argue over shelter during the downpour.

9. "Till the treacherous pool / Engulfs them in its whirling / And turbulent ocean"

a) A ship sinks in a stormy sea during heavy rainfall.

b) A well overflows, flooding the nearby market.

c) Swimmers get trapped in a sudden whirlpool.

d) Children's paper boats are swallowed by swirling rainwater.

10. "To the dry grass and the drier grain / How welcome is the rain!"

a) Farmers worry rain will ruin their harvested grain.

b) Grass turns yellow after too much water.

c) Crops and fields, parched from heat, desperately need the rain.

d) The grain market crashes due to delayed monsoon.

Multiple choice questions

1. The poem opens by contrasting the rain's arrival with the prior weather conditions. What does this contrast emphasize?

a) The rain's ability to erase all human footprints in the city.

b) The transformative power of rain after prolonged heat and dust.

c) How rain exposes hidden flaws in urban infrastructure.

d) The temporary nature of relief before heat returns.

2. When describing the rain's sound, the poet uses a comparison to hoofbeats. What effect does this create?

a) It conveys the rain's rhythmic, energetic quality.

b) It trivializes the rain by comparing it to farm animals.

- c) It suggests the rain is as destructive as a stampede.
- d) It implies horses are nearby, seeking shelter.

3. How does the sick man's reaction to the rain contribute to the poem's message?

- a) It shows his fear of storms worsening his illness.
- b) It reveals his jealousy of children playing outside.
- c) It highlights rain as a soothing, almost healing force.
- d) It suggests he blames rain for his confinement.

4. The poem describes children playing with paper boats in the rain. What might this symbolize?

- a) Human attempts to control nature's forces.
- b) The fleeting joy and vulnerability of childhood.
- c) A criticism of urban drainage systems.
- d) The inevitability of toys becoming litter.

5. The poet compares the dry plain to a "leopard's hide." What does this imagery suggest?

- a) The land's barrenness before the rain's renewal.
- b) The presence of wild animals desperate for water.
- c) Farmers using animal skins to protect crops.
- d) A warning about predators lurking after rain.

6. How does the description of the pool as "treacherous" affect the poem's tone?

- a) Reveals the poet's distrust of children's games.
- b) Suggests the rain is inherently destructive.
- c) Highlights the pool's deceptive cleanliness.

d) Introduces a note of danger amid the celebration.

7. The phrase "How welcome is the rain!" repeats throughout. What purpose does this serve?

- To unify the poem and reinforce its central theme.
- To mock people's dependence on weather.
- To mark the passage of time between storms.
- To signal the poet's personal dislike of rain.

8. The poem describes water gushing from a gutter's "throat." Why personify the gutter?

- To make the gutter seem like a cruel monster.
- To suggest the city is alive and breathing.
- To emphasize the rain's uncontrollable energy.
- To criticize poor drainage infrastructure.

9. How does the poem's shift from city to countryside scenes enhance its meaning?

- It shows rain affects all environments equally.
- It contrasts human reactions with nature's needs.
- It implies cities don't deserve rain's blessings.
- It prioritizes agricultural needs over urban ones.

10. Which word best captures the poem's prevailing mood?

- Anxious
- Indifferent
- Grateful
- Resentful