

Chapter 14: Sympathy

Choose the best explanation for each quoted line.

1. "His looks were cold, he gave me gold"

- a) The man provided financial help but lacked emotional warmth or eye contact
- b) The wealthy man donated money generously to charity organizations
- c) The rich man was physically shivering while handing over coins
- d) The speaker received gold jewelry as a gift from a distant relative

2. "But not a kindly word"

- a) The rich man wrote his instructions instead of speaking them
- b) The speaker was too proud to thank the donor properly
- c) No verbal comfort or encouragement accompanied the material gift
- d) The wealthy man spoke in a foreign language the poet didn't understand

3. "Then stood erect and spoke my thanks"

- a) The poet showed physical dominance over the rich man after recovering

- b) The speaker regained dignity and formally acknowledged the hollow charity
- c) The poet built a statue to honor the donor's contribution
- d) A doctor helped the speaker stand after a long illness

4. "And blessed his charity"

- a) The speaker genuinely praised the man's philanthropic organization
- b) A religious leader sanctified the donated gold in a ceremony
- c) Ironical praise highlighting the emptiness of help without compassion
- d) The rich man demanded a blessing in exchange for his money

5. "He bound my head, he gave me bread"

- a) A baker provided medical care and free food samples
- b) The poor man offered practical, life-sustaining help with personal effort
- c) The speaker received a job at a bakery after an injury
- d) A child shared his lunch while the nurse treated the speaker

6. "He watched me night and day"

- a) The poor man was a security guard working long shifts

- b) The speaker felt paranoid about being monitored constantly
 - c) Sustained, selfless care that addressed both physical and emotional needs
 - d) A doctor conducted overnight medical observations
7. "Oh, gold is great, but greater far"
- a) Gold's monetary value exceeds all other metals
 - b) The speaker plans to become a goldsmith after this experience
 - c) Wealthy people live far away from urban poverty
 - d) While money is useful, it cannot surpass the value of something else
8. "Is heavenly sympathy"
- a) Religious leaders are the most compassionate people in society
 - b) Divine intervention saved the speaker from suffering
 - c) The poor man's empathy had a spiritual, transcendent quality
 - d) Only angels can truly understand human pain

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What does the line "His looks were cold, he gave me gold" reveal about the rich man?

- a) He provided financial assistance but lacked emotional warmth or personal connection
- b) He suffered from a medical condition that made him physically cold
- c) He secretly wanted to take the speaker's gold but pretended to help
- d) He was a goldsmith who often gave away his products as charity

2. Why does the poet emphasize "not a kindly word"?

- a) To show the rich man had a speech impediment
- b) To highlight how material help without compassion feels incomplete
- c) Because the speaker was deaf and couldn't hear words of comfort
- d) To suggest the rich man wrote his advice instead of speaking it

3. What does the speaker's action of paying back the gold symbolize?

- a) The speaker became wealthy and no longer needed charity
- b) The rich man demanded repayment with high interest
- c) A rejection of hollow charity that didn't address emotional needs

d) The gold was counterfeit and needed to be returned

4. "Then stood erect and spoke my thanks" suggests:

a) The speaker regained dignity but recognized the charity's limitations

b) The speaker was physically healed and could stand straight

c) The rich man required the poor to stand when thanking him

d) This was part of a formal religious ritual for receiving alms

5. "He bound my head, he gave me bread" demonstrates:

a) The poor man had medical training and owned a bakery

b) A religious requirement to feed the hungry before treating wounds

c) The speaker was injured while stealing bread from the poor man

d) Holistic care that addressed both physical and emotional needs

6. The phrase "watched me night and day" implies:

a) The poor man was paid to be a full-time nurse

b) Sustained, selfless attention that went beyond temporary help

- c) The speaker was under surveillance for criminal activity
 - d) This was part of a traditional healing ritual in their culture
7. "Oh, gold is great, but greater far" suggests:
- a) While material wealth has value, compassion is more significant
 - b) Gold will always be the most valuable commodity in society
 - c) The poor man actually possessed hidden gold reserves
 - d) The rich man's gold was of poor quality compared to real sympathy
8. The term "heavenly sympathy" means:
- a) Only religious people can show true compassion
 - b) Empathy so profound it feels divine or transcendent
 - c) Help that comes through miraculous divine intervention
 - d) A specific type of charity practiced in churches
9. The main contrast in the poem is between:
- a) Young and old approaches to helping others
 - b) Urban and rural lifestyles among the poor
 - c) Material charity vs. genuine emotional connection
 - d) Temporary vs. permanent solutions to poverty
10. The poet's message is that true help requires:

- a) Understanding and sharing another's emotional experience
- b) Large financial resources and proper training
- c) Following established religious charity practices
- d) Government intervention and social programs