

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) Ironic 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