

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

Wilbur Wright and Orville Wright
Rosemary and Stephen Vincent Benet

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."



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 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.

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.
