Chapter 15: Trees

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

1. "I think that I shall never see / A poem lovely as a tree."

   a) Trees are boring subjects for poetry.

   b) The poet plans to stop writing poems.

   c) Trees inspire bad poetry.

   d) No human-written poem can equal the beauty of a tree.

2. "And lifts her leafy arms to pray;"

   a) Trees physically pray to God.

   b) Branches resemble arms raised in worship.

   c) The tree is begging for water.

   d) Leaves are falling like praying hands.

3. "Upon whose bosom snow has lain;"

   a) Snow gently covering the tree like a blanket.

   b) Snow melting quickly on branches.

   c) The tree shivering in winter.

   d) A person hugging the tree.

4. "Poems are made by fools like me,"

   a) He regrets being a poet.

   b) He thinks all poets are foolish.

   c) He believes human creativity is flawed compared to nature's perfection.

   d) He plans to stop writing.

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5. "But only God can make a tree."

a) Trees are harder to plant than poems.

b) Nature’ s beauty is divine and irreplicable by humans.

c) God prefers trees over poetry.

d) The poet wishes to become a tree.

Mutlipe Choice Questions

1. The opening lines "I think that I shall never see/A poem lovely as a tree" suggest that:

a) The poet lacks confidence in his writing abilities

b) Natural beauty surpasses artistic creation

c) The poet prefers visual art to poetry

d) Trees are difficult subjects to write about

2. The personification in "A tree whose hungry mouth is prest/Against the earth's sweet flowing breast" primarily serves to:

a) Show the tree as a helpless creature

b) Suggest that trees are aggressive

c) Compare trees to human infants

d) Create a maternal image of nature's nourishment

3. The religious imagery in "And lifts her leafy arms to pray" connects to the poem's central theme by:

a) Suggesting trees are holier than humans

b) Criticizing organized religion

c) Equating nature with divine creation

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d) Showing the poet's personal faith

4. The summer/winter imagery in "A nest of robins in her hair" and "Upon whose bosom snow has lain" demonstrates:

a) The cyclical harmony of nature

b) The tree's vulnerability to seasons

c) The poet's preference for summer

d) How birds depend on trees

5. The line "Who intimately lives with rain" suggests the tree:

a) Fears bad weather

b) Has a symbiotic relationship with nature

c) Grows only in rainy climates

d) Stores water in its trunk

6. The contrast between "Poems are made by fools like me" and "only God can make a tree" emphasizes:

a) The poet's lack of education

b) That poetry is worthless

c) That God disapproves of art

d) The divine origin of natural beauty

7. The poem's structure (rhyme scheme, meter, and stanza form) contributes to its meaning by:

a) Making it easy to memorize

b) Creating a hymn-like quality that mirrors its reverence for nature

c) Following strict classical conventions

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d) Highlighting the poet's technical skill

8. The shift from description to reflection in the final couplet serves to:

a) Suddenly change the poem's subject

b) Introduce a new character

c) Prepare for another stanza

d) Reveal the poem's central contrast between human and divine creation

9. Compared to Romantic nature poetry, Kilmer's approach differs by:

a) Focusing more on religious awe than personal emotion

b) Avoiding emotion completely

c) Using more complex metaphors

d) Rejecting formal structure

10. The poem's enduring popularity likely stems from its:

a) Complex vocabulary

b) Universal theme of nature's sacred beauty

c) Political message

d) Humorous tone

Types of Trees Quiz

1. Which tree is known for its bright red autumn leaves and helicopter-like seeds?

a) Oak

b) Maple

c) Palm

d) Pine

2. What type of tree grows cones instead of flowers?

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a) Cherry

b) Willow

c) Conifer

d) Birch

3. The baobab tree, often called the "upside-down tree," grows in:

a) Deserts

b) Tropical rainforests

c) Arctic tundras

d) African savannas

4. Which tree produces acorns as its fruit?

a) Oak

b) Apple

c) Coconut

d) Redwood

5. Palm trees are adapted to grow in:

a) Swamps

b) Cold mountains

c) Coastal/desert areas

d) Grasslands

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