Poetry Practice 2

The Echoing Green

by William Blake

The sun does arise,
And make happy the skies;
The merry bells ring
To welcome the Spring;
5 The skylark and thrush,
The birds of the bush,
Sing louder around
To the bells' cheerful sound;
While our sports shall be seen
10 On the echoing Green.

Old John, with white hair,
Does laugh away care,
Sitting under the oak,
Among the old folk.
15 They laugh at our play,
And soon they all say,
"Such, such were the joys
When we all--girls and boys--
In our youth-time were seen
20 On the echoing Green."

Till the little ones, weary,
No more can be merry:
The sun does descend,
And our sports have an end.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

25 Round the laps of their mothers

Many sisters and brothers,

Like birds in their nest,

Are ready for rest,

And sport no more seen

30 On the darkening green.

1.) What arises at the beginning of the poem and descends at the end?

a.) The sun

b.) A bell

c.) A bird

d.) An oak tree

2.) What is the setting of this poem?

a.) The nest of a bird

b.) The bush where birds live

c.) The echoing Green

d.) The home of Old John

3.) Read the second stanza of the poem. What can you infer about Old John?

a.) Old John spends most of his time worrying.

b.) Old John used to play on the echoing Green.

c.) Old John likes being an old man more than he liked being a boy.

d.) Old John does not get along well with the other old folk.

4.) Who or what are "the little ones" in line 21?

a.) Young birds

b.) Boys and girls

c.) Mothers

d.) Old folk

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5.) What is the theme of this poem?

a.) The disappointments of old age

b.) The importance of hard work

c.) The power of dreams

d.) The joy of playing outdoors

LIVEWORKSHEETS