



Year 10 Poetry 1: The Clock's Whisper

Read the following poem and answer the questions below:

The Clock's Whisper

The clock on the wall ticks ever so faint,
Its whisper lost in the room's quiet hush.
Each second slips like sand through fingers,
A gentle reminder of the time we crush.

The shadows grow long, stretching across,
As day folds into night's soft embrace.
Yet the clock's whisper never does pause,
Marking moments in an endless race.

Its face is old, its hands worn thin,
Yet still, it turns with unyielding grace.
A silent witness to lives within,
A keeper of time, no one can trace.

It knows the secrets we wish to keep,
The fears we hide in the depths of our soul.
Yet it ticks on, never taking a leap,
For time, it seems, is never quite whole.

We chase the hours, we beg them to stay,
But the clock moves on, indifferent and cold.
Its whisper tells us there's no delay,
That time, once lost, cannot be sold.

So listen close to the clock's soft song,
A melody that's both sad and wise.
It tells of a truth we've known all along,
That time is fleeting, and so are our ties.



Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the primary theme of the poem?

- A) Love
- B) Time
- C) Nature
- D) Freedom

2. Which language technique is used in "The clock's whisper"?

- A) Simile
- B) Personification
- C) Alliteration
- D) Metaphor

3. The phrase "sand through fingers" is an example of which technique?

- A) Alliteration
- B) Simile
- C) Imagery
- D) Onomatopoeia

4. What does the clock symbolize in the poem?

- A) Happiness
- B) Life
- C) Death
- D) Time



5. Which word best describes the mood of the poem?

- A) Joyful
- B) Melancholic
- C) Angry
- D) Excited

6. The phrase "day folds into night" is an example of:

- A) Metaphor
- B) Hyperbole
- C) Oxymoron
- D) Simile

7. The poet's use of "whisper" to describe the clock suggests:

- A) Silence
- B) Loudness
- C) Urgency
- D) Calmness

8. "A silent witness to lives within" is an example of:

- A) Simile
- B) Personification
- C) Irony
- D) Hyperbole



9. The poem's tone can best be described as:

- A) Reflective
- B) Humorous
- C) Aggressive
- D) Sarcastic

10. Which of the following best describes the poem's structure?

- A) Free verse
- B) Rhymed couplets
- C) Haiku
- D) Limerick



Short Answer Questions

1. How does the poet use personification to enhance the theme of time in the poem?

2. Explain the significance of the clock as a symbol in the poem.

3. Analyze the use of imagery in the line "sand through fingers."

4. What mood does the poet create in the poem, and how is it achieved?



5. Discuss the meaning of the line "time, once lost, cannot be sold."

6. How does the poet's choice of words contribute to the overall tone of the poem?

7. What is the effect of the repeated references to the clock's "whisper"?

8. How does the structure of the poem contribute to its meaning?



9. What is the poet suggesting about the relationship between time and life?

10. How does the poem's ending reinforce its central theme?



Answer Key

Multiple Choice Answers:

1. B) Time
2. B) Personification
3. C) Imagery
4. D) Time
5. B) Melancholic
6. A) Metaphor
7. D) Calmness
8. B) Personification
9. A) Reflective
10. B) Rhymed couplets

Short Answer Key:

1. The poet uses personification by giving the clock human-like qualities, such as "whispering," which emphasizes the idea that time is a silent but constant presence in our lives, reinforcing the theme that time is always moving forward, regardless of our actions.
2. The clock symbolizes the relentless passage of time, acting as a reminder that time is always moving forward, indifferent to human concerns.
3. The imagery in "sand through fingers" evokes a sense of time slipping away uncontrollably, much like how sand cannot be held in one's hand, emphasizing the fleeting nature of time.
4. The poet creates a melancholic mood through the use of somber language and imagery that reflects on the inevitable passage of time and the transient nature of life.
5. The line "time, once lost, cannot be sold" suggests that time is an irretrievable resource; once it's gone, it cannot be regained or purchased back.
6. The poet's choice of words, such as "whisper," "silent witness," and "sad and wise," contribute to the reflective and melancholic tone of the poem.
7. The repeated references to the clock's "whisper" emphasize the subtle but persistent nature of time's passage, which quietly but steadily moves forward.
8. The poem's structure, with its rhymed couplets, creates a rhythmic flow that mirrors the ticking of a clock, reinforcing the poem's theme of the steady passage of time.
9. The poet suggests that time is an ever-present force in life, one that we are constantly aware of but cannot control or escape from.
10. The poem's ending reinforces the theme that time is fleeting and that our ties to it, and to each other, are temporary.



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