



Year 10 Poetry 7: Whispers in the Stone

Read the following poem and answer the questions below:

Whispers in the Stone

Among the ancient stones they lie,
Stories etched in timeworn script,
Tales of those who walked the sky,
And lands that have since slipped.

The stones, they whisper soft and low,
Of kingdoms lost and battles won,
Of rivers where the wildflowers grow,
And fields that drank the sun.

The past is carved in every line,
In every crack and weathered crease,
A history both grand and fine,
Captured in the earth's embrace.

Each rock, a sentinel of time,
A witness to the world's great change,
Their silence more profound than chime,
Their wisdom vast, their reach strange.

And though the years have worn them down,
Their voices still are clear and strong,
They sing of both the sword and crown,
Of right and what is wrong.

In the stillness of the night,
If you listen, you may hear,
The echoes of an ancient fight,
A whisper close, then disappear.

But do not mourn for what is gone,
For in the stone, it still remains,
A song that's never truly done,
A story bound in chains.

For every stone that marks the past,
A bridge between the then and now,



Their tales will evermore outlast,
As long as we remember how.

So when you pass a stone so old,
Don't just see what time has worn,
Listen to the story told,
And know a new tale has been born.



Multiple Choice Questions

1. What do the stones symbolize in the poem?
 - A) The passage of time
 - B) The permanence of memory
 - C) The strength of nature
 - D) The fragility of life

2. The phrase "Their silence more profound than chime" is an example of:
 - A) Simile
 - B) Personification
 - C) Metaphor
 - D) Hyperbole

3. What mood is created by the poem?
 - A) Joyful
 - B) Nostalgic
 - C) Anxious
 - D) Celebratory

4. The line "A whisper close, then disappear" suggests:
 - A) The fleeting nature of memory
 - B) The loudness of the stones' tales
 - C) The impermanence of life
 - D) The distance between past and present



5. Which language technique is used in "Tales of those who walked the sky"?
- A) Hyperbole
 - B) Alliteration
 - C) Personification
 - D) Metaphor
6. The poet's use of "a bridge between the then and now" implies:
- A) The connection between history and the present
 - B) The division between past and future
 - C) The importance of moving forward
 - D) The unchangeability of the past
7. How does the poet convey the idea of timelessness in the poem?
- A) By focusing on the beauty of nature
 - B) Through the portrayal of ancient stones as keepers of history
 - C) By describing the endless cycles of the seasons
 - D) Through the use of rhyme and meter
8. What theme is explored in the poem?
- A) The inevitability of death
 - B) The power of storytelling
 - C) The beauty of nature
 - D) The destruction of the environment



9. How does the poet create a sense of reverence for the past?

- A) By using grand, elevated language
- B) Through the personification of stones
- C) By describing historical events in detail
- D) Through the use of vivid, colorful imagery

10. What is the effect of the final stanza?

- A) It reinforces the idea that stories are born from the past.
- B) It suggests that the past is irrelevant to the present.
- C) It highlights the transient nature of life.
- D) It implies that stones are the only true keepers of history.



Short Answer Questions

1. How does the poet use imagery to convey the theme of history in the poem?

2. Discuss the significance of the stones as symbols in the poem.

3. Analyze the impact of the phrase "Their voices still are clear and strong."

4. What does the poet suggest about the relationship between the past and the present in the poem?



5. Explain the meaning of the line "For every stone that marks the past."

6. How does the poem's structure contribute to its overall meaning?

7. What role does personification play in developing the poem's theme?

8. How does the poet create a sense of nostalgia in the poem?



9. In what ways does the poem explore the theme of memory?

10. How does the ending of the poem reinforce the idea of continuity between past and present?



Answer Key

Multiple Choice Answers:

1. B) The permanence of memory
2. C) Metaphor
3. B) Nostalgic
4. A) The fleeting nature of memory
5. D) Metaphor
6. A) The connection between history and the present
7. B) Through the portrayal of ancient stones as keepers of history
8. B) The power of storytelling
9. B) Through the personification of stones
10. A) It reinforces the idea that stories are born from the past.

Short Answer Key:

1. The poet uses imagery such as "tales of those who walked the sky" and "fields that drank the sun" to paint a vivid picture of history being preserved in the stones, emphasizing their role as keepers of ancient stories.
2. The stones symbolize the permanence of memory and the enduring nature of history. They serve as physical markers of the past, connecting us to what has come before and reminding us of the stories that still linger.
3. The phrase "Their voices still are clear and strong" highlights the idea that, despite the passage of time, the stories embedded in the stones remain powerful and relevant, capable of speaking to those who are willing to listen.
4. The poet suggests that the past and present are intimately connected, with the stones serving as a bridge between the two, allowing us to access and learn from the history that has shaped our world.
5. The line "For every stone that marks the past" implies that each stone holds a piece of history, a story that continues to influence the present, reinforcing the idea that the past is never truly gone.
6. The regular structure of the poem, with its rhymed quatrains, mirrors the enduring nature of the stones and the stories they contain, suggesting a sense of order and continuity in the passage of time.
7. Personification in the poem, such as describing the stones as having "voices" and "whispers," gives life to these inanimate objects, emphasizing their role as active participants in the preservation of history.
8. The poet creates a sense of nostalgia by focusing on the ancient, weathered stones and the timeless stories they hold, evoking a longing for the past and a reverence for the history that has shaped the present.
9. The poem explores the theme of memory by portraying the stones as keepers of ancient stories, suggesting that the past is preserved and remembered through these physical markers, even as time moves on.



10. The ending of the poem reinforces the idea of continuity between past and present by suggesting that, as we listen to the stories told by the stones, new tales are born, linking the history of the past with the experiences of the present.



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