



Year 10 Poetry 9: The Lament of the Lost City

Read the following poem and answer the questions below:

The Lament of the Lost City

In the heart of the forgotten plains,
Where once great cities stood in might,
Now only echoes of their reigns,
In silence guard the endless night.

Their walls, once proud, now crumble slow,
The ivy wraps around their bones,
While whispers of the wind still blow,
Through hollowed, empty, ancient stones.

The towers that once touched the sky,
Now lie in ruins, cold and gray,
Their grandeur lost, their glory dry,
Beneath the dust of time's decay.

The streets that bustled with the throng,
Are silent now, their songs long gone,
Yet in their silence, there's a song,
Of lives that lived and times that shone.

The city's pulse, once fierce and strong,
Now beats in memories, faint and frail,
Its legacy, though lost and long,
Still lingers on the evening gale.

And as the night descends in deep,
If you listen to the breeze,
You might hear the city's mournful sweep,
A ghostly echo through the trees.

So wander through these ruins wide,
And touch the stones with reverent hands,
For in their silence, history hides,
The tales of long-lost ancient lands.



Multiple Choice Questions

1. What does the poem primarily focus on?
 - A) The beauty of ancient architecture
 - B) The grandeur of past civilizations
 - C) The decay and memory of a lost city
 - D) The growth of new cities

2. The phrase "Now only echoes of their reigns" is an example of:
 - A) Simile
 - B) Metaphor
 - C) Personification
 - D) Hyperbole

3. What is the mood of the poem?
 - A) Joyful
 - B) Reflective
 - C) Anxious
 - D) Triumphant

4. The line "Their grandeur lost, their glory dry" suggests:
 - A) The city's continued prosperity
 - B) The city's transformation into a modern hub
 - C) The city's decline and loss of splendor
 - D) The city's rebirth and renewal



5. Which language technique is used in "The towers that once touched the sky"?

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

6. The poet's use of "The city's pulse, once fierce and strong" implies:

- A) The city was a living entity with vitality
- B) The city is still thriving
- C) The city's energy is reborn
- D) The city's pulse was always weak

7. How does the poet convey a sense of nostalgia in the poem?

- A) By describing the city's ongoing prosperity
- B) Through the depiction of the city's ruins and past grandeur
- C) By focusing on current events
- D) Through the portrayal of vibrant, modern streets

8. What theme is explored in the poem?

- A) The inevitability of technological advancement
- B) The ephemeral nature of human achievement
- C) The importance of preserving ancient cultures
- D) The impact of natural disasters



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

- A) By focusing on the city's architectural beauty
- B) Through the portrayal of its decline and the memories it holds
- C) By describing the city's bustling life
- D) Through the celebration of its new developments

10. What is the effect of the final stanza?

- A) It suggests that the city's stories are irrelevant.
- B) It implies that the city's history is lost and forgotten.
- C) It emphasizes the importance of remembering and respecting the past.
- D) It highlights the ongoing growth and change of the city.



Short Answer Questions

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

2. Discuss the significance of the city's ruins as depicted in the poem.

3. Analyze the impact of the phrase "Their grandeur lost, their glory dry."

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 "The city's pulse, once fierce and strong, now beats in memories, faint and frail."

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 for the lost city?



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

10. How does the ending of the poem reinforce the idea of respecting and remembering history?



Answer Key

Multiple Choice Answers:

1. C) The decay and memory of a lost city
2. B) Metaphor
3. B) Reflective
4. C) The city's decline and loss of splendor
5. B) Hyperbole
6. A) The city was a living entity with vitality
7. B) Through the depiction of the city's ruins and past grandeur
8. B) The ephemeral nature of human achievement
9. B) Through the portrayal of its decline and the memories it holds
10. C) It emphasizes the importance of remembering and respecting the past.

Short Answer Key:

1. The poet uses imagery such as "crumble slow," "ivy wraps around their bones," and "dust of time's decay" to convey the theme of decay, illustrating the city's transition from grandeur to ruin.
2. The city's ruins symbolize the passage of time and the impermanence of human achievement. They serve as physical reminders of a once-great civilization now lost to history.
3. The phrase "Their grandeur lost, their glory dry" highlights the city's decline from a state of magnificence to one of desolation, emphasizing the transient nature of human accomplishments.
4. The poet suggests that the past and present are interconnected through memory. While the city may be in ruins, its legacy and the stories of its past continue to influence the present.
5. The line suggests that the city's vitality and strength have diminished over time, existing now only in faded memories and historical reflections, rather than in physical presence.
6. The regular structure of the poem, with its rhymed quatrains, reflects the sense of continuity and permanence of the city's historical significance, even as the physical city has decayed.
7. Personification, such as describing the city's pulse and legacy, gives human-like qualities to the city, emphasizing its past vitality and the emotional connection we have to its history.
8. The poet creates a sense of nostalgia by focusing on the once-grand city's ruins, evoking a longing for its past splendor and highlighting the contrast between its former glory and its current state.
9. The poem explores the theme of impermanence by portraying the city's transition from greatness to ruin, underscoring the idea that even the most impressive human achievements are subject to decay over time.



10. The ending of the poem reinforces the importance of respecting and remembering history by urging readers to appreciate the remnants of the past and the stories they hold, even in their current state of ruin.



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