



Year 8 Poetry 11: The Lost Key

Read the following poem and answer the questions below:

The Lost Key

In an old, forgotten drawer,
Lies a key from days of yore.
Dusty, tarnished, out of place,
Hiding secrets, lost in space.

Once it turned a lock so tight,
Held a room from day to night.
But time has turned the key to rust,
In the drawer, it lies in trust.

What secrets does it guard so still?
What stories does it hold until,
A hand returns to lift the veil,
To find the truth behind the trail?

It could be lost, or maybe found,
A memory that once was crowned.
But for now, it stays unknown,
A relic of a past long gone.

And in the quiet, it remains,
A symbol of forgotten chains.
The key that once held power near,
Now whispers tales that disappear.



Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the primary subject of the poem?

- A) A broken clock
- B) A lost key
- C) An old book
- D) A hidden treasure

2. What does the lost key symbolize in the poem?

- A) Forgotten memories
- B) Physical strength
- C) New opportunities
- D) Wealth

3. Which language technique is used in "Lies a key from days of yore"?

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

4. What mood is created by the line "Dusty, tarnished, out of place"?

- A) Nostalgic
- B) Cheerful
- C) Curious
- D) Frustrated



5. What does the poet imply about the key with "A relic of a past long gone"?

- A) The key is still valuable
- B) The key holds current significance
- C) The key is from a distant and forgotten past
- D) The key is broken and useless

6. How does the poet describe the key's state in the drawer?

- A) Bright and polished
- B) New and functional
- C) Dusty and rusted
- D) Lost and forgotten

7. Which language technique is evident in "The key that once held power near"?

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

8. What does the poet mean by "A symbol of forgotten chains"?

- A) The key symbolizes new beginnings
- B) The key represents past constraints or restrictions
- C) The key is a physical chain
- D) The key is a symbol of success



9. How does the poet use contrast in the poem?

- A) By contrasting the key with modern objects
- B) By contrasting the key's past significance with its present state
- C) By contrasting the key with a map
- D) By contrasting the drawer with a chest

10. Which of the following is a theme of the poem?

- A) The value of antiques
- B) The passage of time
- C) The discovery of hidden truths
- D) The excitement of adventure



Short Answer Questions

1. How does the poet use personification in the poem?

2. What is the effect of the metaphor "A relic of a past long gone"?

3. Identify the rhyme scheme of the second stanza.

4. How does the poet create a sense of mystery surrounding the key?



5. Discuss the significance of the key being described as "Dusty, tarnished, out of place."

6. What does the phrase "The key that once held power near" suggest about its former use?

7. How does the poet contrast the key's current state with its past significance?

8. What is the mood conveyed in the final stanza, and how is it achieved?



9. How does the poet convey the theme of forgotten memories in the poem?

10. What is the overall message of the poem regarding the lost key?



Answer Key

Multiple Choice Answers:

1. B) A lost key
2. A) Forgotten memories
3. C) Alliteration
4. A) Nostalgic
5. C) The key is from a distant and forgotten past
6. C) Dusty and rusted
7. A) Personification
8. B) The key represents past constraints or restrictions
9. B) By contrasting the key's past significance with its present state
10. C) The discovery of hidden truths

Short Answer Key:

1. The poet personifies the key by suggesting that it "whispers tales" and that it "holds power," giving it human-like qualities that enhance the sense of mystery and nostalgia surrounding it.
2. The metaphor "A relic of a past long gone" implies that the key is an old artifact from a distant time, emphasizing its obsolescence and the passage of time that has rendered it forgotten.
3. The rhyme scheme of the second stanza is AABB.
4. The poet creates a sense of mystery by describing the key as forgotten and rusted, suggesting it holds hidden stories or secrets that are waiting to be uncovered.
5. The description "Dusty, tarnished, out of place" highlights the key's neglect and age, emphasizing how it has fallen out of use and is now a forgotten object of the past.
6. The phrase "The key that once held power near" suggests that the key was once important and controlled access to something significant, indicating its former value and role.
7. The poet contrasts the key's current state of neglect with its past importance, illustrating how something once vital can become a mere relic over time.
8. The mood conveyed in the final stanza is one of quiet reflection and nostalgia, achieved through the imagery of the key as a symbol of forgotten constraints and the passage of time.
9. The poet conveys the theme of forgotten memories by presenting the key as a symbol of past experiences and secrets that have been left behind and are now only remembered in the context of the old, neglected object.
10. The overall message of the poem is that the lost key represents the passage of time and the way memories and important aspects of the past can become forgotten, symbolizing both the loss and the potential for rediscovery.



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