



Year 8 Poetry 3: The Clock Tower's Lament

Read the following poem and answer the questions below:

The Clock Tower's Lament

In the heart of the old town square,
Stands a tower, tall and fair.
Its clock hands move with steady grace,
Marking time in this ancient place.

The chimes ring out, a solemn tune,
Echoing beneath the pale moon.
Each stroke a reminder, clear and stark,
Of hours passed, now lost in the dark.

The townsfolk walk with hurried feet,
Unaware of time's quiet beat.
They rush, they strive, they never see,
The clock's slow dance, its melody.

But in the night, when all is still,
The tower watches from its hill.
It knows the truth, that time will fade,
That even stone cannot evade.

The clock ticks on, a lonely sound,
As years and decades circle round.
It counts the days, the lives, the tears,
A silent witness to passing years.

Yet no one stops to hear its cry,
The lonely chime that fills the sky.
For time moves on, and so do they,
Unaware of what slips away.



Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the main subject of the poem?

- A) A bustling market
- B) A clock tower
- C) A quiet forest
- D) A flowing river

2. What does the clock tower symbolize in the poem?

- A) Progress
- B) Silence
- C) The passage of time
- D) Nature's beauty

3. Which language technique is used in "The clock's slow dance, its melody"?

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

4. The phrase "Echoing beneath the pale moon" evokes a sense of:

- A) Fear
- B) Tranquility
- C) Joy
- D) Chaos



5. What does the poet imply by "even stone cannot evade"?
- A) The stone will last forever
 - B) Time affects everything, even stone
 - C) The stone is resistant to time
 - D) Stone is more powerful than time
6. How does the poet describe the relationship between the townsfolk and the clock tower?
- A) They are in awe of the tower
 - B) They are indifferent to the tower
 - C) They fear the tower
 - D) They worship the tower
7. What mood is created by the line "The clock ticks on, a lonely sound"?
- A) Hopeful
 - B) Lonely
 - C) Angry
 - D) Excited
8. Which of the following best describes the tone of the poem?
- A) Joyful
 - B) Reflective
 - C) Humorous
 - D) Aggressive



9. What is the significance of the "lonely chime that fills the sky"?

- A) It represents the isolation of the town
- B) It symbolizes the constant but unnoticed passage of time
- C) It signifies the start of a new day
- D) It represents a call to action

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

- A) The power of nature
- B) The inevitability of change
- C) The joy of life
- D) The importance of community



Short Answer Questions

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

2. What is the effect of the imagery in "Echoing beneath the pale moon"?

3. Identify the rhyme scheme of the first stanza.

4. How does the poet create a sense of time passing in the poem?



5. Discuss the significance of the clock tower's "lament." What is it lamenting?

6. How does the poet contrast the townsfolk's actions with the clock tower's presence?

7. What does the phrase "time will fade" suggest about the poet's view on life?

8. How does the poet use sound to emphasize the theme of the poem?



9. What is the effect of the phrase "A silent witness to passing years"?

10. How does the poet convey the idea of time being unnoticed by the townsfolk?



Answer Key

Multiple Choice Answers:

1. b) A clock tower
2. c) The passage of time
3. c) Personification
4. b) Tranquility
5. b) Time affects everything, even stone
6. b) They are indifferent to the tower
7. b) Lonely
8. b) Reflective
9. b) It symbolizes the constant but unnoticed passage of time
10. b) The inevitability of change

Short Answer Key:

1. The poet personifies the clock tower by describing it as watching, dancing, and lamenting, giving it human-like qualities that reflect its enduring presence and awareness of time.
2. The imagery in "Echoing beneath the pale moon" creates a peaceful and somewhat melancholic atmosphere, emphasizing the quiet, reflective nature of the poem.
3. The rhyme scheme of the first stanza is ABAB.
4. The poet creates a sense of time passing through phrases like "The clock ticks on" and "years and decades circle round," which highlight the continuous, unstoppable movement of time.
5. The clock tower's "lament" reflects its sorrow over the passage of time and the fact that it goes unnoticed by the townsfolk, who are too caught up in their lives to appreciate the significance of time.
6. The poet contrasts the townsfolk's hurried, indifferent actions with the clock tower's steady, observant presence, showing how the people are unaware of the passage of time that the tower represents.
7. The phrase "time will fade" suggests that time is transient and that everything, including life and even stone, will eventually succumb to its passage.
8. The poet uses sound, such as the "lonely chime" and the ticking clock, to underscore the theme of time passing and being unnoticed, adding to the reflective and somber mood.
9. The phrase "A silent witness to passing years" emphasizes the clock tower's role as an observer of time and life, silently marking the passage of time while the world around it changes.
10. The poet conveys the idea of time being unnoticed by the townsfolk through their "hurried feet" and "rushing" actions, contrasting this with the steady, patient presence of the clock tower that they overlook.





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