



Year 8 Poetry 9: The Clockmaker's Dream

Read the following poem and answer the questions below:

The Clockmaker's Dream

In a shop where time is kept,
The clockmaker works, though others slept.
His hands move quick, his eyes so keen,
Fixing gears that few have seen.

Each tick, each tock, a measured beat,
Guiding lives on busy streets.
Yet in his heart, a dream takes flight,
Of clocks that move beyond the night.

He dreams of time that does not end,
A loop that bends, a thread to mend.
Of seconds lost and moments found,
In endless circles, round and round.

But clocks, they bind with hands of steel,
And time is something all can feel.
It slips away, despite his craft,
A fleeting thing, gone with a laugh.

And so he works, with quiet grace,
To keep the time, to hold its pace.
But in his dreams, the clocks run free,
Unbound by hours, wild and free.



Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the primary setting of the poem?
 - A) A busy marketplace
 - B) A clockmaker's shop
 - C) A quiet library
 - D) A bustling city square

2. What does the clockmaker's dream symbolize?
 - A) The desire for wealth
 - B) The wish to control time
 - C) The love of machinery
 - D) The fear of death

3. Which language technique is used in "His hands move quick, his eyes so keen"?
 - A) Simile
 - B) Hyperbole
 - C) Personification
 - D) Alliteration

4. What mood is created by the line "A loop that bends, a thread to mend"?
 - A) Optimistic
 - B) Chaotic
 - C) Reflective
 - D) Joyful



5. What does the poet imply by "Time is something all can feel"?

- A) Time is intangible
- B) Time is irrelevant
- C) Time is a universal experience
- D) Time is under the clockmaker's control

6. How does the poet describe the relationship between the clockmaker and time?

- A) The clockmaker controls time
- B) The clockmaker battles time
- C) The clockmaker respects time but cannot control it
- D) The clockmaker is indifferent to time

7. Which language technique is evident in "Time slips away, despite his craft"?

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

8. What does the poet mean by "But clocks, they bind with hands of steel"?

- A) Clocks are made of steel
- B) Clocks represent the rigid passage of time
- C) Clocks are unbreakable
- D) Clocks are difficult to repair



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

- A) By contrasting day with night
- B) By contrasting freedom with constraint
- C) By contrasting silence with noise
- D) By contrasting the clockmaker's dream with reality

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

- A) The inevitability of aging
- B) The pursuit of knowledge
- C) The conflict between dreams and reality
- D) The joy of craftsmanship



Short Answer Questions

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

2. What is the effect of the metaphor "A loop that bends, a thread to mend"?

3. Identify the rhyme scheme of the first stanza.

4. How does the poet create a sense of contrast between the clockmaker's dream and his reality?



5. Discuss the significance of "But clocks, they bind with hands of steel" in the poem.

6. What does the phrase "Time slips away, despite his craft" suggest about the clockmaker's efforts?

7. How does the poet contrast the idea of time in the clockmaker's dream with the time he controls in his shop?

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



9. How does the poet convey the theme of the conflict between dreams and reality?

10. What is the overall message of the poem regarding time and the clockmaker's role?



Answer Key

Multiple Choice Answers:

1. B) A clockmaker's shop
2. B) The wish to control time
3. D) Alliteration
4. C) Reflective
5. C) Time is a universal experience
6. C) The clockmaker respects time but cannot control it
7. A) Personification
8. B) Clocks represent the rigid passage of time
9. D) By contrasting the clockmaker's dream with reality
10. C) The conflict between dreams and reality

Short Answer Key:

1. The poet personifies time by describing it as something that can "slip away" and clocks as binding with "hands of steel," giving them human-like qualities that highlight the struggle to control time.
2. The metaphor "A loop that bends, a thread to mend" suggests that time in the clockmaker's dream is flexible and cyclical, unlike the rigid, linear time he works with, emphasizing the contrast between dream and reality.
3. The rhyme scheme of the first stanza is AABB.
4. The poet creates a sense of contrast between the clockmaker's dream and his reality by describing the freedom of time in his dream, where clocks run "wild and free," versus the structured, controlled time in his shop.
5. "But clocks, they bind with hands of steel" signifies that clocks enforce the rigid passage of time, symbolizing how time is measured and constrained, contrary to the clockmaker's dream of unbounded time.
6. The phrase "Time slips away, despite his craft" suggests that no matter how skilled the clockmaker is, he cannot stop or control the passage of time, highlighting the futility of trying to master time.
7. The poet contrasts the idea of time in the clockmaker's dream, where it is free and unbound, with the time he controls in his shop, which is rigid and measured by the ticking of clocks, showing the difference between imagination and reality.
8. The mood conveyed in the final stanza is one of quiet resignation, achieved through the clockmaker's continued work despite the impossibility of his dream, reflecting acceptance of reality.
9. The poet conveys the theme of the conflict between dreams and reality by showing the clockmaker's yearning for a world where time is not bound by clocks, contrasting it with the reality of his work, where time is strictly controlled.



10. The overall message of the poem is that while dreams offer an escape from the constraints of reality, the clockmaker must accept the limitations of time in his work, symbolizing the tension between aspiration and practicality.



Personalised English & Math Tutoring

Redeem Free Assessment

