

1. What does a crow shake down on the speaker?

- A. a day of rue
- B. a dust of snow**
- C. a hemlock tree
- D. a bad mood

2. How many syllables are there in each line of this poem?

- A. 6-9
- B. 3-4
- C. 4-6**
- D. 1-2

3. Reread the second stanza of the poem:

Has given my heart

A change of mood

And saved some part

Of a day I had rued.

What can you conclude about the change in the speaker's mood?

- A. The speaker's mood has gotten better.**
- B. The speaker's mood has gotten worse.
- C. The speaker's mood has stayed the same.
- D. The speaker's mood has changed from angry to scared.

4. Where, most likely, is the speaker of the poem?

- A. in England
- B. at school
- C. in bed
- D. outdoors**

5. What is the theme of this poem?

- A. Pets can bring joy to people who feel lonely.
- B. Winter is a time of year that makes people feel sad.
- C. Staying outdoors too long in the cold can be unhealthy.
- D. Being out in nature can make a person feel better.**

6. Reread the second stanza of the poem:

Has given my heart

A change of mood

And saved some part

Of a day I had rued.

What does the word "saved" mean here?

- A. protected from danger
- B. preserved for later use
- C. stored on an electronic device
- D. made worthwhile**

7. What is the subject of the phrase "had rued" (line 8)?

- A. "saved" (line 7)
- B. "some part" (line 7)
- C. "a day" (line 8)
- D. "I" (line 8)**

8. What does a crow shaking down snow from a hemlock tree give the speaker's heart?

A crow shaking down snow from a hemlock tree gives the speaker's heart a change of mood.

9. What does the word "rued" mean? Support your answer with evidence from the poem.

Students should recognize the negative quality of "rued" and may approximate its meaning as "disliked" or "hated." If they identify its exact definition of "bitterly regretted," all the better. Support from the text includes the speaker's "change of mood," the salvation of part of his or her day, and the temporal remoteness of "had rued" compared to "has given."

10. What can you conclude about the speaker's character, or personality? Support your answer with evidence from the poem.

Answers may vary, as long as they are supported by the text. For example, students may describe the speaker as a person who experiences a mixture of emotions and whose moods are influenced by his or her surroundings. The speaker had been ruining his or her day, then experienced an upswing in mood after having snow shaken down on him or her by a crow.