

The Frost

By Hannah Flagg Gould

The frost looked forth on a still, clear night,
And whispered, "Now I shall be out of sight;
So through the valley and over the height
I'll silently take my way.

I will not go on like that blustering train,
The wind and the snow, the hail and the rain,
That make so much bustle and noise in vain,
But I'll be as busy as they!"

He flew up, and powdered the mountain's crest;
He lit on the trees, and their boughs he dressed
With diamonds and pearls; -and over the breast
Of the quivering lake he spread
A bright coat of mail, that it need not fear
The glittering point of many a spear
That he hung on its margin, far and near,
Where a rock was rearing its head.

He went to the windows of those who slept,
And over each pane, like a fairy crept;
Wherever he breathed-wherever he stepped-
Most beautiful things were seen
By morning's first light! There were flowers and trees,
With beevies of birds and swarms of bright bees;
There were cities-temples, and towers; and these,
All pictured in silvery sheen!

But one thing he did that was hardly fair-
He peeped in the cupboard, and finding there
That none had remembered for him to prepare,
"Now, just to set them a-thinking,
I'll bite their rich basket of fruit," said he,
"This burly old pitcher-I'll burst it in three!
And the glass with the water they've left for me
Shall 'tchick!' to tell them I'm drinking!

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. How is the movement of the frost through the valley described in the poem?

- A bustling
- B nosily
- C silently
- D blustering

2. Read the stanza: "He lit on the trees, and their boughs he dressed with diamonds and pearls..."

What did the frost do to the tree boughs?

- A The frost breathed on the trees.
- B The frost powdered the trees with snow.
- C The frost lit the branches with sparkling ice.
- D The frost spread a bright coat of sparkling armor like plates.

3. Read the first three lines of the poem. What do they communicate about the setting?

- A The frost is awakened by the clear morning sun.
- B The frost quietly moves through a clear night.
- C The frost ventured out during a windy and rainy evening.
- D The frost went blustering through the valley like a train at night.

4. Read the following lines: "There were flowers and trees,/ With bebies of birds and swarms of bright bees;/ There were cities-temples, and towers; and these,/ All pictured in silvery sheen!"

What does the word **bebies** mean?

- A different kinds
- B flocks
- C nests
- D a couple

5. What is the poet trying to communicate to the reader regarding frost?

- A Frost can move noisily like wind and snow.
- B Frost can get into your house and burst a pitcher.
- C Frost can be beautiful, but also destructive.
- D Frost can freeze lakes and make them look glittery.

6. Re-read the 1st stanza in the poem. For what purpose does the poet include a description of trains, wind, snow, hail and rain?

7. Read the following lines from the poem: "Of the quivering lake he spread/ A bright coat of mail, that it need not fear/ The glittering point of many a spear." What did the frost most likely do to the lake? Why?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

The frost does not move as noisily as the wind and snow _____ the frost was just as busy.

- A and
- B because
- C but
- D so

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

On a still, clear night, the frost created beautiful sights by frosting the trees and powdering the mountain's crest.

Who? the frost

(did) What? _____

When? _____

How? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** quiver: shake with small movements.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: N/A

Featured Text Structure: N/A

Passage Summary: This poem describes frost by giving it human characteristics in order to illustrate frost during the winter.

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- B nosily
- C **silently**
- D blustering

2. Read the stanza: "He lit on the trees, and their boughs he dressed with diamonds and pearls..."

What did the frost do to the tree boughs?

- A The frost breathed on the trees.
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- B **The frost quietly moves through a clear night.**
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4. Read the following lines: "There were flowers and trees,/ With be vies of birds and swarms of bright bees;/ There were cities-temples, and towers; and these,/ All pictured in silvery sheen!"

What does the word **be vies** mean?

- A different kinds
- B **flocks**
- C nests
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5. What is the poet trying to communicate to the reader regarding frost?

- A Frost can move noisily like wind and snow.
- B Frost can get into your house and burst a pitcher.
- C **Frost can be beautiful, but also destructive.**
- D Frost can freeze lakes and make them look glittery.

6. Re-read the 1st stanza in the poem. For what purpose does the poet include a description of trains, wind, snow, hail and rain?

Suggested answer: The poet uses wind, snow, hail and rain, to contrast the way frost moves around and the way they move. The train, rain and hail, make so much noise, but the frost creeps "silently."

7. Read the following lines from the poem: "Of the quivering lake he spread/ A bright coat of mail, that it need not fear/ The glittering point of many a spear." What did the frost most likely do to the lake? Why?

Suggested answer: The frost created a thin layer of ice on the surface of the lake. A coat of mail refers to shiny armor made of metal. In addition, the glittering point of many a spear refers to the shiny metal from the point of a spear. These metaphors could also allude to the hardness of the ice as both these objects are made of metal. The details of the poem suggest that the frost most likely created a shiny layer of ice on the lake.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

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- A and
- B because
- C **but**
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9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

On a still, clear night, the frost created beautiful sights by frosting the trees and powdering the mountain's crest.

Who? the frost

(did) What? **created beautiful sights**

When? **on a still, clear night**

How? **by frosting the trees and powdering the mountain's crest**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** quiver: shake with small movements.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.