

Grade 8**Reading Poetry**

Whispers of the Ancient Oak

Passage: Beneath the vast expanse of the azure sky, Stands an ancient oak, tall and mighty, oh so high. Its branches stretch out with a welcoming grace, Telling tales of old, of a long-gone race.

The leaves rustle softly, whispering secrets untold, Of knights so brave and princesses bold. In its shade, lovers have danced and sighed, Under its boughs, many have cried.

The bark is etched with the passage of time, Carved by nature, an artwork sublime. The roots delve deep into the fertile earth, Anchoring life, giving rise to rebirth.

This mighty oak has seen seasons change, From the warm summer breeze to the winter's rage. It's a beacon of strength in the moon's soft glow, A sentinel of the woods, as time does flow.

Its limbs have cradled birds learning to fly, And offered solace to the weary passerby. The leaves transform with the autumn's kiss, A spectacle of nature, pure and bliss.

In the heart of the forest, it stands alone, A monument of nature, as old as stone. Its whispers carry tales of yore, An eternal saga, folklore galore.

Questions:

1.What is the primary setting of the poem?

- A. A bustling city
- B. A quiet village
- C. An ancient forest
- D. A distant mountain

2.What does the ancient oak seem to represent in the poem?

- A. Decay and death
- B. Strength and resilience
- C. Fear and despair
- D. Confusion and chaos

3.What have lovers done under the oak tree?

- A. Fought
- B. Danced
- C. Slept
- D. Hid

4. What does the author describe as a "spectacle of nature, pure and bliss"?

- A. The moon's soft glow
- B. The leaves transforming with the autumn's kiss
- C. The carved bark
- D. The dancing lovers

5. How are the oak tree's roots described?

- A. Shallow and weak
- B. Deep and anchoring
- C. Invisible and mysterious
- D. Twisted and confusing

6. What seasons are mentioned in the poem?

- A. Spring and Summer
- B. Summer and Winter
- C. Autumn and Winter
- D. Spring and Autumn

7. What is suggested about the oak tree through the phrase "A sentinel of the woods, as time does flow"?

- A. It is always changing
- B. It is a guardian over time
- C. It is stuck in time
- D. It is indifferent to time

8. What emotion does the oak tree seem to offer to the "weary passerby"?

- A. Disdain
- B. Anger
- C. Solace
- D. Confusion

9. What does the oak tree bear witness to, according to the poem?

- A. Only the sadness of the world
- B. The lives of birds and humans alike
- C. Only the joyous moments in life
- D. The passing of unnatural events

10. What artistic technique does the phrase “The leaves rustle softly, whispering secrets untold” use?

- A. Simile
- B. Metaphor
- C. Personification
- D. Alliteration

1. Correct Answer: C. An ancient forest *Explanation: The poem describes an ancient oak tree standing tall in what seems to be a tranquil, natural setting, indicative of a forest.*
2. Correct Answer: B. Strength and resilience *Explanation: The poem describes the oak as mighty, tall, and a beacon of strength, suggesting that it represents strength and resilience.*
3. Correct Answer: B. Danced *Explanation: The poem mentions that lovers have danced and sighed under the oak's boughs.*
4. Correct Answer: B. The leaves transforming with the autumn's kiss *Explanation: The poem directly mentions that the leaves transforming with autumn's kiss is a spectacle of nature, pure and bliss.*
5. Correct Answer: B. Deep and anchoring *Explanation: The poem describes the oak's roots as delving deep into the earth, anchoring life.*
6. Correct Answer: B. Summer and Winter *Explanation: The poem mentions the warm summer breeze and the winter's rage, indicating these two seasons.*
7. Correct Answer: B. It is a guardian over time *Explanation: The phrase suggests that the oak tree stands guard over the woods, enduring as time flows on.*
8. Correct Answer: C. Solace *Explanation: The poem describes the oak as offering solace to the weary passerby, indicating a sense of comfort.*
9. Correct Answer: B. The lives of birds and humans alike *Explanation: The poem mentions the oak witnessing the lives of birds learning to fly and humans in various states of emotion.*
10. Correct Answer: C. Personification *Explanation: The leaves are given human-like qualities as they are described as whispering secrets, which is an example of personification.*