

## Poetry Practice Quiz

*Annotate the following poem. Chunk it and summarize your chunks. Then highlight the line that you believe is the most important line to understanding the poem.*

### “After Apple-Picking”

by Robert Frost

MY long two-pointed ladder's sticking through a tree  
Toward heaven still,  
And there's a barrel that I didn't fill  
Beside it, and there may be two or three  
Apples I didn't pick upon some bough.  
But I am done with apple-picking now.  
Essence of winter sleep is on the night,  
The scent of apples: I am drowsing off.  
I cannot rub the strangeness from my sight  
I got from looking through a pane of glass  
I skimmed this morning from the drinking trough  
And held against the world of hoary grass.  
It melted, and I let it fall and break.  
But I was well  
Upon my way to sleep before it fell,  
And I could tell  
What form my dreaming was about to take.  
Magnified apples appear and disappear,  
Stem end and blossom end,  
And every fleck of russet showing clear.  
My instep arch not only keeps the ache,  
It keeps the pressure of a ladder-round.  
I feel the ladder sway as the boughs bend.  
And I keep hearing from the cellar bin  
The rumbling sound  
Of load on load of apples coming in.  
For I have had too much  
Of apple-picking: I am overtired  
Of the great harvest I myself desired.  
There were ten thousand thousand fruit to touch,  
Cherish in hand, lift down, and not let fall.  
For all  
That struck the earth,  
No matter if not bruised or spiked with stubble,  
Went surely to the cider-apple heap  
As of no worth.  
One can see what will trouble  
This sleep of mine, whatever sleep it is.  
Were he not gone,  
The woodchuck could say whether it's like his  
Long sleep, as I describe its coming on,  
Or just some human sleep.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. How does the author's choice to write this as a poem affect the meaning?
- (a) The format and structure enhance meaning because the poem looks like a ladder.
  - (b) It distracts readers because the rhyming words make the poem hard to understand.
  - (c) The format and structure enhance meaning because the poem looks like an apple tree.
  - (d) It distracts readers because the choppy flow of the lines make the poem hard to understand.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. What will the speaker of the poem MOST LIKELY do after waking up the following day?
- (a) Shovel the snow.
  - (b) Pick more apples.
  - (c) Make apple cider.
  - (d) Find the woodchuck.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. What line from the poem supports the idea that the speaker has picked too many apples?
- (a) My long two-pointed ladder's sticking through a tree
  - (b) And there's a barrel that I didn't fill
  - (c) Magnified apples appear and disappear,
  - (d) No matter if not bruised or spiked with stubble,
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Based on the poem, what does the speaker fear might interrupt sleep?
- (a) hopes for a restful winter
  - (b) memories of apple picking
  - (c) worries of next year's harvest
  - (d) dreams about the woodchuck
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. At which time of year does "After Apple-Picking" take place?
- (a) late fall
  - (b) late winter
  - (c) late spring
  - (d) late summer
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Read the lines from the poem.
- "For I have had too much  
Of apple-picking: I am overtired  
Of the great harvest I myself desired."

Which BEST describes the conflict in these lines?

- (a) external conflict between the speaker and his boss
- (b) external conflict between the speaker and the apples
- (c) internal conflict between the speaker's exhaustion and his desire for a good crop
- (d) internal conflict between the speaker's desire for success and his fear of dreams

