

Questions 14-25. Read the following poem carefully before you choose your answers.

I dreaded that first Robin, so,
But He is mastered, now,
I'm some accustomed to Him grown,
He hurts a little, though—

Line

(5) I thought if I could only live
Till that first Shout got by—
Not all Pianos in the Woods
Had power to mangle me—

I dared not meet the Daffodils—
(10) For fear their Yellow Gown
Would pierce me with a fashion
So foreign to my own—

I wished the Grass would hurry—
So—when 'twas time to see—
(15) He'd be so tall, the tallest one
Could stretch—to look at me—

I could not bear the Bees should come,
I wished they'd stay away
In those dim countries where they go,
(20) What word had they, for me?

They're here, though; not a creature failed—
No Blossom stayed away
In gentle deference to me—
The Queen of Calvary—

(25) Each one salutes me, as he goes,
And I, my childish Plumes
Lift, in bereaved acknowledgment
Of their unthinking Drums—

—Emily Dickinson
(c. 1862)

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14. The central opposition in the poem is between
(A) the birds and the flowers
(B) God and nature
(C) childhood and adulthood
(D) the speaker and spring
(E) reason and imagination
15. The speaker views the coming of the robin, the daffodils, and the bees as
(A) welcome arrivals
(B) inexplicable events
(C) painful experiences
(D) unexpected diversions
(E) inspiring occurrences
16. The “first Shout” (line 6) most probably refers to
(A) a cry made by the speaker
(B) the robin’s song
(C) a baby’s first cry
(D) the dawn of a new day
(E) the sprouting of a flower
17. In line 7, “Pianos” most probably refers metaphorically to
(A) birds
(B) flowers
(C) bees
(D) poetry
(E) musical instruments
18. For the speaker, the robin and the daffodils have which of the following in common?
(A) An aura of the divine
(B) The power to intoxicate
(C) The power to wound
(D) A clear and useful purpose
(E) A sense of timeliness and peace

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19. One effect of "They're here, though" (line 21) is to emphasize the speaker's feeling of
- (A) hopefulness
 - (B) contentment
 - (C) justification
 - (D) guilt
 - (E) powerlessness
20. In line 21, "failed" is best understood to mean
- (A) died
 - (B) faded
 - (C) sickened
 - (D) was unhappy
 - (E) was absent
21. Grammatically, the word "Plumes" (line 26) functions as
- (A) the direct object of "goes" (line 25)
 - (B) an appositive for "I" (line 26)
 - (C) the subject of "Lift" (line 27)
 - (D) the direct object of "Lift" (line 27)
 - (E) the indirect object of "Lift" (line 27)
22. The speaker perceives the coming of spring chiefly in terms of
- (A) sounds and colors
 - (B) odors and tastes
 - (C) shapes and textures
 - (D) music and poetry
 - (E) love and youth
23. Which of the following is a subject treated in the poem?
- (A) The relationship between nature and human beings
 - (B) Belief in the power of religion
 - (C) The innocence of childhood
 - (D) The power of the imagination to provide comfort
 - (E) Fear of death
24. The most conventional, least idiosyncratic aspect of the poem is its
- (A) tone
 - (B) diction
 - (C) rhymes
 - (D) capitalization
 - (E) meter
25. The sentiments expressed in the poem are closest to those expressed in which of the following quotations from other poets?
- (A) "The poetry of earth is never dead" (John Keats)
 - (B) "April is the cruellest month" (T. S. Eliot)
 - (C) "Fair daffodils, we weep to see/You haste away so soon" (Robert Herrick)
 - (D) "And then my heart with pleasure fills/And dances with the daffodils" (William Wordsworth)
 - (E) "Nothing is so beautiful as spring—/When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush" (Gerard Manley Hopkins)

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