

# LESSON 5

The following selection is a poem by Robert Frost. Read the selection and then answer the questions that follow.

## Mending Wall

Something there is that doesn't love a wall,  
That sends the frozen-ground-swell under it  
And spills the upper boulders in the sun,  
And makes gaps even two can pass abreast.  
The work of hunters is another thing:  
They have come after them and made repair  
Where they have left not one stone on a stone,  
But they would have the rabbit out of hiding,  
To please the yelping dogs. The gaps I mean,  
No one has seen them made or heard them made,  
But at spring mending-time we find them there.  
Let my neighbor know beyond the hill;  
And on a day we meet to walk the line  
And set the wall between us once again.  
We keep the wall between us as we go.  
To each the boulders that have fallen to each.  
And some are loaves and some so nearly balls  
We have to use a spell to make them balance:  
"Stay where you are until our backs are turned!"  
We wear our fingers rough with handling them.  
Oh, just another kind of outdoor game,  
One on a side. It comes to little more:  
Where there is no need the wall:  
Where there is all pine and I am apple orchard.

- 25 My apple trees will never get across  
And eat the cones under his pines, I tell him.  
He only says, "Good fences make good neighbors."  
Spring is the mischief in me, and I wonder  
If I could put a notion in his head:
- 30 "Why do they make good neighbors? Isn't it  
Where there are cows? But here there are no cows.  
Before I built a wall I'd ask to know  
What I was walling in or walling out,  
And to whom I was like to give offense.
- 35 Something there is that doesn't love a wall,  
That wants it down." I could say "Elves" to him,  
But it's not elves exactly, and I'd rather  
He said it for himself. I see him there,  
Bringing a stone grasped firmly by the top
- 40 In each hand, like an old-stone savage armed.  
He moves in darkness as it seems to me,  
Not of woods only and the shade of trees.  
He will not go behind his father's saying,  
And he likes having thought of it so well
- 45 He says again, "Good fences make good neighbors."



1. Which of the following *most accurately* describes the poem's form and meter?

- A It is a narrative poem written in blank verse.
- B It is a soliloquy written in rhymed verse.
- C It is a ballad written in rhymed verse.
- D It is a lyric poem written in iambic pentameter.

2. Who is the poem's speaker?

- A a first-person narrator who could be the poet himself
- B a first-person narrator who is definitely not the poet
- C a third-person narrator who is a character in the poem
- D an omniscient narrator who knows everything about the poem's characters

Which *best* describes the speaker's tone?

- A consistently humorous
- B consistently ironic
- C often sarcastic
- D mostly serious

Based on the poem, what do the speaker and his neighbor do every spring?

- A They meet to exchange news and ask about each other's health.
- B They meet to fuel an ongoing argument.
- C They meet to rebuild the stone wall that borders their property.
- D They meet to play an old game.

5. Based on lines 1–11, what does the speaker *most likely* consider to be a difference between "the work of hunters" and the effects of "the frozen-ground-swell"?

- A The hunters' work is messy, while nature's work is neat.
- B The hunters' work is brutal, while nature's work is subtle.
- C The hunters' work is random, while nature's work is planned.
- D The hunters' work is evil, while nature's work is good.

6. From the speaker's point of view, what is the *main* thing that the stone wall separates?

- A pine woods and an apple orchard
- B neighbors
- C herds of cows
- D cows and sheep

7. What is the neighbor's father's saying?

- A "Stay where you are until our backs are turned!"
- B "Elves."
- C "Good fences make good neighbors."
- D "Something there is that doesn't love a wall."

8. What does the speaker imply when he says, "Spring is the mischief in me"?

- A At this time of year, he feels like challenging his neighbor's ideas.
- B At this time of year, he feels like insulting someone.
- C At this time of year, he feels like getting into trouble.
- D At this time of year, he feels like being more polite than usual.

9. What is the significance of the image in line 4?

- A It shows how narrow the gaps are.
- B It suggests that the gaps are good because they allow people to cross a barrier together.
- C It reveals how much work the speaker and his neighbor have to do to mend the wall each spring.
- D It suggests that two people who pass through the gaps will become friendly.

10. What is the *main* difference between the speaker's point of view and that of his neighbor?

- A The speaker questions the purpose of the wall, while the neighbor refuses to do so.
- B The speaker is opinionated about the wall, while his neighbor is open-minded.
- C The speaker is furious about the wall, while his neighbor ignores it.
- D The speaker hates the wall, while his neighbor loves it.

11. The speaker compares his neighbor to an "old-stone savage armed" and says he "moves in darkness." What do these metaphors reveal about the speaker's judgment of his neighbor?

- A The speaker judges his neighbor to be somewhat backward and defensive.
- B The speaker judges his neighbor to be silly, old-fashioned, and violent.
- C The speaker judges his neighbor to be frail, with poor eyesight.
- D The speaker judges his neighbor to be rugged and daring.

12. What might be described as oddly inconsistent about the speaker's actions?

- A The speaker talks to his neighbor politely, although he is furious with him.
- B Although the speaker does not like the wall being there, he notifies his neighbor every year at mending time.
- C The speaker does not tell his neighbor what he honestly thinks about the wall.
- D Although he easily could, the speaker does not prevent hunters from tearing down the wall.

13. Based on the neighbor's point of view in the poem, which of the following relationships is *most similar* to the relationship below?

good neighbors : good fences

- A wilderness: preservation
- B health : exercise
- C harmony : boundaries
- D conflict : boundaries

14. After reading the poem, which of the following sayings might you expect the neighbor to use?

- A "Mind your own business."
- B "The early bird catches the worm."
- C "Nothing ventured, nothing gained."
- D "All's fair in love and war."

15. What is *most likely* the "something" that "doesn't love a wall" in lines 1 and 35?

- A nature
- B hunters
- C neighbors
- D elves

The following selection is a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.  
Read the selection and then answer the questions that follow.

## The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls

The tide rises, the tide falls,  
The twilight darkens, the curlew calls,  
Along the sea-sands damp and brown  
The traveler hastens toward the town,  
⑤ And the tide rises, the tide falls.

Darkness settles on roofs and walls,  
But the sea, the sea in the darkness calls;  
The little waves, with their soft, white hands,  
⑩ Efface the footprints in the sands,  
And the tide rises, the tide falls.

The morning breaks; the steeds in their stalls  
Stamp and neigh, as the hostler calls;  
The day returns, but nevermore  
Returns the traveler to the shore,  
⑮ And the tide rises, the tide falls.

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1. Which of the following statements *best* summarizes the poem's structure?
- A The poem is composed of three five-line stanzas, regular rhyme, and regular meter.
  - B The poem is composed of three five-line stanzas, irregular rhyme, and irregular meter.
  - C The poem includes three five-line stanzas, each composed of couplets.
  - D The poem is a fifteen-line sonnet.
2. What is the *most accurate* way to classify the poem?
- A a lyric poem that is mainly descriptive
  - B a narrative poem that tells the story of a man's life
  - C an epic that tells a story on a heroic scale
  - D an elegy that mourns someone's death
3. Who is the poem's narrator?
- A the poet himself
  - B probably the traveler
  - C the hostler
  - D an unidentified, detached observer
4. What is the tone of the poem?
- A emphatic
  - B matter-of-fact
  - C playful
  - D morbid
5. In line 2, what is it *most reasonable* to conclude about a *curlew*?
- A that it is a lighthouse
  - B that it is a bell announcing the start of a curfew
  - C that it is a type of shore bird
  - D that it is a foghorn
6. In line 9, whose footprints had been left in the sands?
- A the curlew's
  - B the traveler's
  - C the hostler's
  - D the horses'
7. Based on the context of line 9, what does *efface* mean?
- A obliterate or erase
  - B scratch
  - C float
  - D turn into shapes that resemble faces
8. In stanza 2, the poet uses personification to describe the sea. This figurative language compares the sea to what?
- A a person whose actions are inconsistent
  - B a young man whose actions are destructive
  - C a person whose actions are repetitive and gentle.
  - D a child whose actions are demanding or playful

9. Based on the context of stanza 3, what does *hostler* mean?

- A a person who hurries
- B a caretaker of horses
- C a horse thief
- D a blacksmith

10. In the poem, what else besides the tides follows a cycle?

- A the steeds in their stalls
- B the traveler's journey
- C the passage of time
- D the sea-sands

11. The traveler's journey is never repeated. What is *most likely* the reason for this?

- A The poet wants the reader to infer that the traveler feared the sea.
- B The poet wants the reader to infer that the traveler had been lost.
- C The poet intends the traveler's journey to be a symbol for human life.
- D The poet intends the traveler's journey to be a symbol for tourism.

12. Based on the information in the selection, which of the following relationships is *most similar* to the relationship below?

tide : traveler

- A friend : foe
- B seasons : butterfly
- C rainbow : tempest
- D bicyclist : traffic

13. What sound device does the poet create by repeating "the tide rises, the tide falls" at the end of each stanza?

- A end rhyme
- B internal rhyme
- C a refrain
- D onomatopoeia

14. The poet made the following lines of the poem the same: the first line, the last line, and the last line of each stanza. What thematic purpose did the poet *most likely* have for doing this?

- A to suggest that nature is monotonous
- B to suggest that nature is unpredictable
- C to imply that nature is changeable, depending on human life and death
- D to imply that nature is unaffected by human life and death

15. Which experience would be *most likely* to inspire someone to write a poem similar to this?

- A taking a hot-air balloon ride
- B competing in a race
- C visiting a hospital
- D walking through a forest