

Day 1:

Haiku Poem:

Student answers will vary.

Day 2:

Limerick and Couplets:

Student answers will vary.

Day 3:

Mother to Son:

1. Summarize the message the mother gives to the son through the poem.

Student answers will vary. As long as it is something along these lines then they understood the poem:

Hardships, hope, and courage are some of the major themes of the poem. The poem explores the dignity and determination of a person when facing problems. The **speaker** compares her life to a ragged staircase and conjures up an idea that one should not give up. She says that life is full of tests, challenges, and confusion and a person should confront with courage and determination. Throughout the poem, she instructs her son to continue his struggle with patience, resilience, and hope, giving her own life's example.

2. What imagery stands out to you in the poem?

Student answers will vary. As long as it is something along these lines then they understood the poem:

The image of the stairway symbolizes the struggles of the mother's journey...the uphill climb to a better life.

"I've been a-climbin' on, / And reachin' landin's, / And turnin' corners," the mother says, conjuring the image of a climb through all of life's hardships.

She tells her son, "Don't you set down on the steps. / 'Cause you finds it's kinder hard."

Images of the stairway also provide a view of the way in which they lived...the poverty faced in the northern cities after the Civil War, as so many freed blacks left the South.

“It’s had tacks in it, / And splinters, / And boards torn up, / And places with no carpet on the floor- / Bare.”

Darkness is symbolic of hopelessness.

“Sometimes goin’ in the dark / Where there ain’t been no light.”

3. Which phrase is repeated and what meaning does this phrase hold?

Student answers will vary. As long as it is something along these lines then they understood the poem:

- There is a repetition of the line “life for me ain’t been no crystal stair” which has created a musical quality in the poem. It has also created rhetorical impacts in the poem.
- **Refrain:** The lines that are repeated again at some distance in the poems are called refrain. The line, “life for me ain’t been no crystal stair” is repeated with the same words, it has become a refrain on account of its repetition.

Day 4:

The Elephant:

Student answers will vary. As long as it is something along these lines then they understood the poem:

Rhyme and Repetition Which words rhyme? What words or phrases are repeated?
A (chain) B (affairs) A (sugarcane) B (lair) C (break) D (caress) C (stake) D (masterless)

Repeated:

“I will...” This phrase is repeated in the poem.

Point of View and Voice

Who is the speaker?
What is the speaker feeling?

The elephant is the speaker.

The elephant is feeling that he is sick of working for humans. The elephant wants to return to its past life of power and life in the wild. During the night, possibly in his imagination or dreams, he returns to the wild and is able to be free and forget his life of caged and made to perform.

Imagery and Visualization

What words or phrases help you see a picture in your mind?

Picture in my mind?

Students will draw a picture here.

Words and Phrases that helped me visualize this picture.

Student answers will vary.

Main Idea and Details

Students answers will vary

This poem is mostly about ___elephants being forced to work for humans and wishing to go back to the wild__ because it talks about _____ “I will remember what I was. I am sick of rope and chain-”__ and _ “I will not sell my back to man”__ and __ “I will go out to my own kind”_____.

Day 5:

The Road Not Taken:

1. What is the speaker’s problem in the first stanza of the poem?
 - A. He is tired of traveling and wants to rest.
 - B. He’s not sure about which road to take.**
 - C. He cannot see the end of the road he is traveling.
 - D. He fears that he may be lost in the woods.
2. Which lines from the poem show that the speaker is happy with the choice he has made?
 - A. “I took the one less traveled by, / And that has made all the difference.”**
 - B. “Yet knowing how way leads on to way, / I doubted if I should ever come back.”
 - C. “In leaves no step had trodden black / Oh, I kept the first for another day!”
 - D. “Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, / And sorry I could not travel both”

3. Read these lines from the poem:

“And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;”.

What does the phrase “grassy and wanted wear” mean?

- A. The road was beautiful to look at.
 - B. The road went through the woods.
 - C. The road was no longer a road.
 - D. The road was not often used.**
4. The mood the author creates in the poem is best described as
 - A. playful
 - B. reflective**
 - C. suspenseful
 - D. disappointed

5. Which of these statements best describes the theme of the poem?
- A. Take time to appreciate the things around you.
 - B. Honesty is always the best policy.
 - C. Don't be afraid to take a chance.**
 - D. It is good to believe in yourself.

6. Read these lines from the poem:
"Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both"

Now study this dictionary entry.

diverge: verb

- 1. to differ from each other in terms of appearance
- 2. to extend in different directions
- 3. the condition of being mathematically divergent
- 4. to differ in a matter of opinion

Which is the correct definition of "diverge" as it is used in the lines above?

- A. definition 1
- B. definition 2**
- C. definition 3
- D. definition 4

7. Which best describes what the two roads in the poem represent to the speaker?
- A. choices that once were possible**
 - B. friends whom he has known
 - C. places that he has been to
 - D. times during his life

8. Many readers see the two roads as a choice between a good path and a bad path. However, you can make the claim that both roads are equal in value. What parts of the text support this idea?

Student answers will vary

9. Think about the different reasons the speaker might "sigh" while thinking back on his journey. How does each reason offer a different perspective on the speaker's attitude toward his choice?

Students answers will vary