

The Raindrops' New Dresses

3rd Grade Poem

Source: Public Domain, may be used with citation.

"We're so tired of these gray dresses!"
Cried the little drops of rain,
As they came down helter-skelter
From the Nimbus cloud fast train.

Then the Sun peeped out a minute.
"Dears, be good and do not fight,
I have ordered you new dresses,
Dainty robes of purest white."

Ah! then all the tiny raindrops
Hummed a merry glad refrain,
Under umbrellas people said: "How pleasant
Is the music of the rain!"

Just at even, when the children
Had been safely tucked in bed,
There was such a rush and bustle
In the dark clouds overhead!

Then those raindrops hurried earthward,
At the North Wind's call, you know,
And the wee folks, in the morning,
Laughed to see the flakes of snow.

Analyze and Infer Author's Point of View and Purpose - Poetry

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. Why do you think the poet wrote this poem?

- a. to tell how it snows
- b. to make people like rain
- c. to get people to think about nature
- d. to get people to like snow

3. Why does the poet say "How pleasant is the music of the rain"?

- a. to get you to worry about storms
- b. to get you to think how rain can be nice
- c. to get you to stay inside
- d. to get people to use umbrellas

2. How do you think the poet feels about nature?

- a. He likes nature.
- b. He doesn't like nature.
- c. He is afraid of nature.
- d. He thinks nature is funny.

4. Why does the poet tell how children like the snow?

- a. because snow falls overnight when they are asleep
- b. because snow is very cold
- c. because snow can be a fun part of nature
- d. because snow is a kind of rain

5. *Write your own answer to this question. Poets write poems to help people think about something. What does this poet want you to think about?*

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	a	a	b	c

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.
How rain and snow can be pleasant.