

Trees

By Alfred Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.



Trees

By Alfred Joyce Kilmer

Answer the questions below

1. a) What **two** types of weather are referred to in the poem?

b) **Find and copy** the word that is used to show that these two weather types are closely related.

2. The poet uses imagery to make the tree seem like a human being. Find **three** examples from the text that show this.

1)

2)

3)

continued...

Trees

By Alfred Joyce Kilmer

3. Draw a line to match each of the following words from the poem to its meaning.

The chest area of a person's body

lain

Delightful and attractive

fools

Those who are stupid or lack good judgement

bosom

Led down in a resting position

sweet

4. What can you tell about the poet from this poem?

5. What does the line '*A tree that looks at God all day*' tell you about the appearance of the tree?

6. Alliteration is a group of two or more words that start with the same sound. Can you find an example of alliteration in the **fourth** verse?

continued...

Trees

By Alfred Joyce Kilmer

7. How does the tree change during the seasons?

8. Overall, what is the poet trying to say in this poem? Explain your answer with reference to evidence from the text.

Trees

By Alfred Joyce Kilmer

Answers

a. What two types of weather are referred to in the poem?

(2b – retrieve information)

Snow and rain

b. Find and copy the word that is used to show that these two weather types are closely related.

(2a – meaning of vocabulary)

Intimately

2. The poet uses imagery to make the tree seem like a human being. Find three examples from the text that show this.

(2g – explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases)

Accept any three from the following:

- **A tree whose hungry mouth is prest**
- **A tree that looks at God all day**
- **Lifts her leafy arms to pray**
- **A tree that may in Summer wear**
- **A nest of robins in her hair**
- **Upon whose bosom snow has lain**

3. Draw a line to match each of the following words from the poem to its meaning.

(2a – meaning of vocabulary)

The chest area of a person's body » bosom

Delightful and attractive » sweet

Those who are stupid or lack good judgement » fools

Laid down in a resting position » lain

4. What can you tell about the poet from this poem?

(2d – make inferences)

Accept any answers that refer to the poet's belief in God, love of trees or that he feels foolish/inferior compared to God.

continued...

Trees

By Alfred Joyce Kilmer

5. What does the line 'A tree that looks at God all day' tell you about the appearance of the tree?

(2a – meaning of vocabulary)

Accept any answers that refer to the tree facing upwards/towards the sky or heaven.

Pupil Response: It tells me that the tree appears to look upwards with its leaves facing the sky.

6. Alliteration is a group of two or more words start with the same sound. Can you find an example of alliteration in the fourth verse?

(2b – retrieve information)

Her hair

7. How does the tree change during the seasons?

(2b – retrieve information)

Accept answers that refer to the robin's nest in summer and the snow in winter.

Pupil Response: In summer, the poet says that the tree has 'a nest of robins in her hair' which means that there is a robin's nest in the branches. In winter, tree looks different because parts of it are covered with snow and we know this because the text says 'upon whose bosom snow has lain'.

8. Overall, what is the poet trying to say in this poem? Explain your answer with reference to evidence from the text.

(2c – summarise the main ideas)

Accept answers that refer to the beauty/wonder of trees and that trees are created by God and include reference to the language of the poem.

Pupil Response: The poet tells us how wonderful trees are and that they are far better than any poem. He says 'I think that I shall never see A poem lovely as a tree'. He also describes how it is like a person with its 'mouth', 'arms', 'hair' and how it appears to 'pray'. Finally, the poet explains that trees can only be made by 'God' whereas anyone can make a poem.