
Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Summer

by Amy Lowell

Some men there are who find in nature all

Their inspiration, hers the sympathy

Which spurs them on to any great endeavor,

To them the fields and woods are closest friends,

5 And they hold dear communion with the hills;

The voice of waters soothes them with its fall,

And the great winds bring healing in their sound.

To them a city is a prison house

Where pent up human forces labour and strive,

10 Where beauty dwells not, driven forth by man;

But where in winter they must live until

Summer gives back the spaces of the hills.

To me it is not so. I love the earth

And all the gifts of her so lavish hand:

15 Sunshine and flowers, rivers and rushing winds,
Thick branches swaying in a winter storm,
And moonlight playing in a boat's wide wake;
But more than these, and much, ah, how much more,
I love the very human heart of man.

20 Above me spreads the hot, blue mid-day sky,
Far down the hillside lies the sleeping lake
Lazily reflecting back the sun,
And scarcely ruffled by the little breeze
Which wanders idly through the nodding ferns.

25 The blue crest of the distant mountain, tops
The green crest of the hill on which I sit;
And it is summer, glorious, deep-toned summer,
The very crown of nature's changing year
When all her surging life is at its full.

30 To me alone it is a time of pause,
A void and silent space between two worlds,
When inspiration lags, and feeling sleeps,
Gathering strength for efforts yet to come.
For life alone is creator of life,

35 And closest contact with the human world
Is like a lantern shining in the night
To light me to a knowledge of myself.

I love the vivid life of winter months
In constant communication with human minds,

40 When every new experience is gain
And on all sides we feel the great world's heart;
The pulse and throb of life which makes us men!

"Summer" from *A Dome of Many-Coloured Glass*, by Amy Lowell. Published by Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1916.

The following item has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

Part A

What does the word idly mean as used in line 24?

- A. loudly
- B. leisurely
- C. subtly
- D. sadly

Part B

How does this word choice develop the poet's ideas?

- M. It emphasizes the peace and calmness of the summer day.
- P. It contrasts the quiet sunshine with the noisy wind.
- R. It suggests the turning of the seasons from summer to autumn.
- S. It creates a nostalgic tone as the author remembers past summers.

How is the speaker different from the others she writes about?

- A. She feels isolated from other people.
- B. She values life in the city more than nature.
- C. She thinks winter storms are more beautiful than clear summer days.
- D. She is frustrated with people's trivial concerns.

The following item has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

Part A

What theme is developed in lines 20–29?

- M.** The simple genius of nature is superior to the complex intelligence of humanity.
- P.** The beauty of summer distracts people from doing important work.
- R.** Humanity will never be able to harness the power of nature.
- S.** Summer is a time of rest despite being the height of nature’s activity.

Part B

Select **two** phrases or sentences that **best** support the answer to Part A.

- A.** “Above me spreads”
- B.** “the sleeping lake / Lazily reflecting back the sun”
- C.** “blue crest of the distant mountain”
- D.** “The green crest of the hill”
- E.** “deep-toned summer”
- F.** “The very crown”
- I.** “When all her surging life is at its full”

What effect does the poet produce by beginning the poem with the statement, “Some men there are who find in nature all / Their inspiration,”?

- M.** She creates a reaction of disbelief from the reader by exaggerating nature’s impact on humanity.
- P.** She creates unity by introducing a universal theme.
- R.** She creates a sense of conflict between humans and nature.
- S.** She creates suspense as the reader wonders what contrast will be drawn between these men and other people.

Which statement **best** describes how the poet creates a sense of tension between opposing ideas in the poem?

- A. She describes herself as different from other people but concludes that all people are the same.
- B. She describes cities as like prisons but describes life in the country as like being free.
- C. She describes the beauty of summer but concludes that she loves the heart of man more.
- D. She describes society in critical terms but also describes her desire for society to accept her.

The following item has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

Part A

What is one of the author's **primary** themes in this poem?

- M. Nature should be protected from the damage done by humans.
- P. One should appreciate the benefits of civilization.
- R. There is reason to love each season as it changes.
- S. It is important to understand the science behind nature.

Part B

Select the quotation that **best** supports the answer to Part A.

- A. "The voice of waters soothes them with its fall, / And the great winds bring healing in their sound." (lines 6–7)
- B. "Where pent up human forces labour and strive, / Where beauty dwells not, driven forth by man;" (lines 9–10)
- C. "Sunshine and flowers, rivers and rushing winds, / Thick branches swaying in a winter storm," (lines 15–16)
- D. "And closest contact with the human world / Is like a lantern shining in the night" (lines 35–36)