

**YEAR 7**

Poetry Basics

Three parts that get harder: a warm-up, where you should be now, then a stretch. Write the letter of the right option, or a number where one is asked for. The poem is real Tennyson, from 1851. Read it aloud once before you start.

"The Eagle" by Alfred, Lord Tennyson, first published in 1851.

He clasps the crag with hooked hands;
Close to the sun in lonely lands,
Ring'd with the azure world, he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;
He watches from his mountain walls,
And like a thunderbolt he falls.

A. Warm-up

- 1 What is a **stanza**?
(a) the title of a poem
(b) a group of lines in a poem
(c) a rhyming word
(d) the poet's name **(b) a group of lines in a poem**
- 2 How many stanzas does "The Eagle" have? **2**
- 3 How many lines are in each stanza? **3**
- 4 Which word rhymes with *hands* in stanza 1?
(a) crag
(b) sun
(c) lands
(d) world **(c) lands**

- 5 What is a **rhyme scheme**?
- (a) the number of lines
 - (b) the speed of reading
 - (c) the title's length
 - (d) the pattern of rhymes at the ends of lines **(d) the pattern of rhymes at the ends of lines**
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B. Where you should be now

- 6 'He clasps the crag' repeats the hard c sound. This is
- (a) alliteration
 - (b) a simile
 - (c) onomatopoeia
 - (d) a rhetorical question **(a) alliteration**
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- 7 'The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls' gives the sea a living action. This is
- (a) a simile
 - (b) personification
 - (c) alliteration
 - (d) hyperbole **(b) personification**
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- 8 'like a thunderbolt he falls' is a
- (a) metaphor
 - (b) personification
 - (c) simile
 - (d) rhyme scheme **(c) simile**
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- 9 What does the thunderbolt comparison suggest about the eagle's dive?
- (a) It is slow and gentle
 - (b) It is noisy and clumsy
 - (c) It is lazy
 - (d) It is sudden, fast and powerful **(d) It is sudden, fast and powerful**
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- 10 'Close to the sun in lonely lands' suggests the eagle is
- (a) very high up and alone
 - (b) lost and afraid
 - (c) hot and tired
 - (d) in a crowd **(a) very high up and alone**
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- 11 Why might the sea look 'wrinkled' and seem to 'crawl'?
- (a) The sea is old
 - (b) It is so far below that its waves look small and slow
 - (c) There is a storm
 - (d) The eagle is in the water **(b) It is so far below that its waves look small and slow**
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C. Stretch

- 12 The poem calls the eagle 'he' and gives it 'hands'. This makes the eagle seem
- (a) small and weak
 - (b) funny
 - (c) like a powerful, almost royal figure
 - (d) a pet **(c) like a powerful, almost royal figure**
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- 13 Five lines are still and watchful; the last line is sudden. This structure
- (a) shows the poem is unfinished
 - (b) makes it a list
 - (c) slows the ending down
 - (d) builds up to a dramatic final moment **(d) builds up to a dramatic final moment**
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- 14 Each stanza uses one rhyme for all three lines. A three-line rhyming group is called
- (a) a triplet
 - (b) a couplet
 - (c) a limerick
 - (d) free verse **(a) a triplet**
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- 15 'azure' means
- (a) dark grey
 - (b) bright blue
 - (c) golden
 - (d) stormy **(b) bright blue**
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- 16 Which word best describes the mood of the poem?
- (a) Comic
 - (b) Gloomy
 - (c) Majestic
 - (d) Chatty **(c) Majestic**
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