

Extract-Based Worksheet – Poems: 'Dust of Snow' and 'Fire and Ice'

Extract 1:

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

1. What does the 'crow' most likely symbolise in this extract?
 - A. Joy
 - B. Gloom
 - C. Wisdom
 - D. Celebration
2. The 'dust of snow' falling from the hemlock tree signifies:
 - A. A change in the weather
 - B. A moment of realisation
 - C. A tragic event
 - D. A natural disaster
3. How does the poet use nature to convey a shift in mood?
4. Explain the significance of the hemlock tree in the context of the poem's theme.
5. How does this moment reflect the poet's perspective on unexpected positivity?

Extract 2:

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued

1. What does the poet mean by 'a day I had rued'?
 - A. A day he celebrated
 - B. A day he regretted
 - C. A day he forgot
 - D. A day he enjoyed

2. The change in mood is triggered by:

- A. A conversation
- B. A memory
- C. A natural incident
- D. A dream

3. What poetic device is used in the phrase 'saved some part of a day'?

4. How does this extract reflect the theme of emotional transformation?

5. Discuss the relevance of this moment in real-life situations of despair.

Extract 3:

Some say the world will end in fire,
Some say in ice.

1. What do 'fire' and 'ice' symbolically represent?

- A. Fire – destruction, Ice – peace
- B. Fire – anger, Ice – insensitivity
- C. Fire – passion, Ice – hatred
- D. Fire – desire, Ice – joy

2. The contrasting elements in the poem highlight:

- A. The poet's confusion
- B. The duality of human emotions
- C. The beauty of nature
- D. The inevitability of death

3. How does the poet use minimalistic language to convey a profound message?

4. Explain the philosophical undertone of this extract.

5. How can the symbolic meanings of fire and ice be applied to real-world conflicts?

Extract 4:

I hold with those who favor fire.
But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great

Questions:

1. What emotion does the poet associate with 'ice'?

- A. Love
- B. Hatred
- C. Joy
- D. Anger

2. The poet's tone in this extract can best be described as:

- A. Hopeful
- B. Indifferent
- C. Reflective
- D. Humorous

3. How does the poet suggest that both fire and ice are capable of destruction?

4. What deeper understanding of human nature is reflected in this extract?

5. Discuss how the poet's personal insight adds weight to the poem's message.