

The Song of Wandering Aengus

by William Butler Yeats

I went out to the hazel wood,
Because a fire was in my head,
And cut and peeled a hazel wand,
And hooked a berry to a thread;
And when white moths were on the wing, 5
And moth-like stars were flickering out,
I dropped the berry in a stream
And caught a little silver trout.

When I had laid it on the floor
I went to blow the fire a-flame, 10
But something rustled on the floor,
And someone called me by my name:
It had become a glimmering girl
With apple blossom in her hair
Who called me by my name and ran 15
And faded through the brightening air.

Though I am old with wandering
Through hollow lands and hilly lands,
I will find out where she has gone,
And kiss her lips and take her hands; 20
And walk among long dappled grass,
And pluck till time and times are done,
The silver apples of the moon,
The golden apples of the sun.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Where does the speaker of the poem go?

- A. to the moon
- B. to a hazel wood
- C. to the sun
- D. to the bottom of a stream

2. What does the second stanza of the poem describe?

- A. a glimmering girl
- B. an old wanderer
- C. a trout in a stream
- D. a white moth in flight

3. The speaker is not feeling well at the beginning of the poem.

What evidence from the poem supports this conclusion?

- A. "I went out to the hazel wood" (line 1)
- B. "a fire was in my head" (line 2)
- C. "I dropped the berry in a stream" (line 7)
- D. "I went to blow the fire a-flame" (line 10)

4. Who is probably the speaker of the poem?

- A. a young man who likes to pick the silver apples of the moon
- B. wandering Aengus
- C. a glimmering girl
- D. a young woman who likes to pick the golden apples of the sun

5. What is the theme of the poem?

- A. contentment or peace
- B. charity or thanks
- C. longing or desire
- D. resentment or hate

6. What is the effect of the words "flickering out" (line 6) and "glimmering" (line 13)?

- A. They hint at what is going to happen at the very end of the poem.
- B. They create a powerful image in the reader's mind.
- C. They show how upset and troubled the speaker is.
- D. They slow down the meter of the poem with long syllables.

7. Read these lines from the poem:

I dropped the berry in a stream

And caught a little silver trout.

When I had laid it on the floor

I went to blow the fire a-flame, (10)

But something rustled on the floor,

And someone called me by my name:

What does the word "it" in line 9 refer to?

- A. "the berry" (line 7)
- B. "a stream" (line 7)
- C. the "trout" (line 8)
- D. "the floor" (line 9)

8. Where has the speaker wandered?

9. Name three things the speaker will do.

10. Identify the mood of the poem and explain what the poet does to create this mood.