

TEST NAME: **Emily Dickinson Poem**  
TEST ID: **2235246**  
GRADE: **06 - Sixth Grade**  
SUBJECT: **English Language and Literature**  
TEST CATEGORY: **School Assessment**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage - 'Returning' - and answer the question below:

### Returning

# Returning

*by Emily Elizabeth Dickinson*

I years had been from home,  
And now, before the door,  
I dared not open, lest\* a face  
I never saw before

- 5 Stare vacant into mine  
And ask my business there.  
My business, just a life I left,  
Was such still dwelling there?

- I fumbled at my nerve,  
10 I scanned the windows near;  
The silence like an ocean rolled,  
And broke against my ear.

- I laughed a wooden laugh  
That I could fear a door,  
15 Who danger and the dead had faced,  
But never quaked before.

- I fitted to the latch  
My hand, with trembling care,  
Lest back the awful door should spring,  
20 And leave me standing there.

I moved my fingers off  
As cautiously as glass,  
And held my ears, and like a thief  
Fled gasping from the house.

\***lest**: for fear that

"Returning" by Emily Elizabeth Dickinson. Public Domain Poetry. <http://allpoets.net/emily-elizabeth-dickinson/returning-13673> (04/10/2013).

1. How do the lines "The silence like an ocean rolled, / And broke against my ear" contribute to the development of the plot?
    - A. by describing the sounds of quietness
    - B. by conveying the location of the events
    - C. by describing how the loud sounds made the speaker feel
    - D. by conveying the speaker's confusion while deciding her next action
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Read the passage - 'Returning' - and answer the question below:

2. How does stanza 4 contribute to the overall development of the poem?
    - A. It presents a new problem that the speaker must confront.
    - B. It details how the speaker was able to stand up to her fears.
    - C. It shows the speaker's ability to mock her own fear of a door.
    - D. It explains the reason why the speaker has returned after many years.
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Read the passage - 'Returning' - and answer the question below:

3. How does line 13 contribute to the development of the plot?
    - A. by showing the speaker finds the situation funny
    - B. by showing the speaker is uncomfortable with the situation
    - C. by showing the speaker is admiring the quality of the door
    - D. by showing that the speaker hears laughter on the other side of the door
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Read the passage - 'Returning' - and answer the question below:

4. How does the description of the speaker's fear in stanza 5 contribute to the development of the plot?
- A. by explaining why the speaker previously laughed at fearful thoughts
  - B. by revealing how the speaker's discovery of new residents diminishes any fear
  - C. by indicating any upcoming confrontation at the door will cause the speaker to faint
  - D. by showing how the speaker's fear dominates, ultimately causing the her to leave without resolution
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Read the passage - 'Returning' - and answer the question below:

5. Which fits the meaning of *quaked* in line 16?
- A. closed
  - B. opened
  - C. shook
  - D. steady
- 

Read the passage - 'Returning' - and answer the question below:

6. Which does stanza 3 contribute to the development of the plot?
- A. A sense of regret that leads to impatience.
  - B. A sense of hesitation that leads to more anxiety.
  - C. A sense of reluctance that leads to embarrassment.
  - D. A sense of rising courage that leads to victorious action.
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Read the passage - 'Returning' - and answer the question below:

7. In line 17, which word could replace *fitted* as used in the phrase "fitted to the latch"?
- A. closed
  - B. grasped
  - C. pulled
  - D. pushed
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Read the passage - 'Returning' - and answer the question below:

8. What is the meaning of lines 5 and 6 in the poem, "Stare vacant into mine / And ask my business there"?
- A. The person answering the door may be frightened of the speaker.
  - B. The person answering the door would wonder if the speaker was a servant.
  - C. The person answering the door would invite the speaker inside for a welcome-home dinner.
  - D. The person answering the door would gaze at the speaker and ask for the reason for the visit.

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Read the passage - 'Returning' - and answer the question below:

9. How does the phrase "Fled gasping" in the last line impact tone of the poem?
- A. It creates a sense of fear and desperation.
  - B. It causes a feeling of confidence and pride.
  - C. It creates of sense of excitement and hope for the future.
  - D. It causes a feeling of panic over how quickly time passes.

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Read the passage - 'Returning' - and answer the question below:

10. How does the use of the words *fumbled* and *trembling* impact the tone of the poem?
- A. They indicate that the author was apathetic.
  - B. They indicate that the author was nervous.
  - C. They indicate that the author was careful.
  - D. They indicate that the author was excited.

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Read the passage - 'Returning' - and answer the question below:

11. How does the speaker's reference to time in line 1 contribute to development of the plot?
- A. by showing she wants to forget her past by closing the door and running away
  - B. by showing the speaker thinks first about the future while trying to forget the past
  - C. by showing she recalls a point when a stranger knocked on the door but ran before she could open the door
  - D. by showing the speaker returns after being away for years and must decide whether she wants to confront her past