

Reading Comprehension 3- Poem
Grade 5

Read the poem carefully and answer the questions that follow.

"A Night With a Wolf"

By Bayard Taylor

Little one, come to my knee!
Hark, how the rain is pouring
Over the roof, in the pitch-black night,
And the wind in the woods a-roaring!

Hush, my darling, and listen,
Then pay for the story with kisses;
Father was lost in the pitch-black night
In just such a storm as this is!

High up on the lonely mountain,
Where the wild men watched and waited;
Wolves in the forest, and bears in the bush,
And I on my path belated.

The rain and the night together
Came down, and the wind came after,
Bending the props of the pine-tree roof
And snapping many a rafter.

I crept along in the darkness,
Stunned, and bruised, and blinded ...
Crept to a fir with thick-set boughs,
And a sheltering rock behind it.

There, from the blowing and raining,
Crouching, I sought to hide me:
Something rustled, two green eyes shone—
And a wolf lay down beside me!

Little one, be not frightened;
Mother would guard you through storm and night;

Love will shelter you, darling,
And make all things right.

Comprehension Questions

1. What kind of night is described in the poem?
 2. Where was the speaker when he encountered the wolf?
 3. What was the speaker trying to do when he saw the wolf?
 4. Why do you think the poem is called "A Night With a Wolf"?
 5. How do you think the speaker felt when he saw the wolf? Give reasons for your answer.
 6. What does the last stanza suggest about the theme of the poem?
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Vocabulary Questions

7. Find a word from the poem that means 'hit or injured.'
 8. What is the meaning of 'belated' in the poem?
 9. Give a synonym for 'frightened.'
 10. What do the 'two green eyes' symbolize in the poem?
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Grammar Questions

11. Identify the prepositions in this line:
"I crept along in the darkness, stunned, and bruised, and blinded."
12. Rewrite the sentence in past tense:
"The wind in the woods is roaring."
13. Convert this into a question:
"A wolf lay down beside me."
14. Find an example of personification in the poem.
15. Write a sentence using the word 'shelter' in a different context.

Answer Key

Comprehension Answers:

1. A stormy night with heavy rain and strong winds.
2. He was on a lonely mountain.
3. He was trying to find shelter.
4. Because the speaker spent the night in the company of a wolf.
5. He was likely scared at first but later realized the wolf wasn't attacking him. The poem presents the wolf in a calm manner.
6. The last stanza suggests that love and protection can help overcome fear.

Vocabulary Answers:

7. "Bruised"
8. "Delayed or late"
9. "Scared" or "Terrified"
10. The wolf, representing mystery or possible danger

Grammar Answers:

11. "along," "in"
12. "The wind in the woods was roaring."
13. "Did a wolf lie down beside me?"
14. "The wind in the woods a-roaring" (The wind is given a human-like action.)
15. Example: *The old man found shelter under a big tree during the rain.*