

Reading Comprehension 8- Poem

Grade 5

Who Has Seen the Wind?

By Christina Rossetti

Who has seen the wind?
Neither I nor you:
But when the leaves hang trembling,
The wind is passing through.

Who has seen the wind?
Neither you nor I:
But when the trees bow down their heads,
The wind is passing by.

Comprehension Questions

1. What is the main natural element this poem is about?
2. According to the poem, can people see the wind?
3. What happens to the leaves when the wind passes through?
4. What do the trees do when the wind passes by?
5. How many stanzas are in this poem?
6. How are the first lines of each stanza similar?
7. How are the second lines of each stanza similar?
8. What is the main idea of this poem?
9. The poet uses the word "passing" in both stanzas. What does this suggest about the wind?
10. The poem uses the phrases "passing through" and "passing by." How are these different?

Vocabulary Questions

11. What does "trembling" mean in the poem?
12. In this poem, what does it mean when trees "bow down their heads"?
13. What does "neither" mean in the lines "Neither I nor you" and "Neither you nor I"?
14. The poem asks "Who has seen the wind?" What type of question is this?
15. What is another word for "passing by" as used in the poem?

Grammar Questions

16. In the line "Who has seen the wind?", identify the verb.
17. What is the rhyme pattern in each stanza?
18. In the line "But when the leaves hang trembling," what is the subject?
19. Find a word in the poem that is personification (giving human qualities to non-human things).
20. The poem repeats certain lines. What is this poetic device called?

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Answer Key

Comprehension Answers

1. The wind is the main natural element in this poem.
2. No, according to the poem, people cannot see the wind.
3. The leaves hang trembling when the wind passes through.
4. The trees bow down their heads when the wind passes by.
5. There are two stanzas in the poem.
6. The first lines of each stanza are identical: "Who has seen the wind?"
7. The second lines are similar but with the order of "I" and "you" reversed: "Neither I nor you" and "Neither you nor I."
8. The main idea is that we cannot see the wind itself, but we can see its effects on things around us.
9. The word "passing" suggests that the wind is moving, temporary, or in motion.
10. "Passing through" suggests movement within or between things, while "passing by" suggests movement alongside or past something.

Vocabulary Answers

11. "Trembling" means shaking slightly, often from fear, excitement, or being moved by a force.
12. It means the trees are bending or swaying their tops downward.
13. "Neither" means not one nor the other of two things or people.
14. It is a rhetorical question (a question asked for effect, not expecting an answer).
15. Other words for "passing by" include moving past, going by, traveling past.

Grammar Answers

16. The verb is "has seen."
17. The rhyme pattern in each stanza is ABCB (the second and fourth lines rhyme).
18. The subject is "the leaves."

19. "Bow down their heads" is personification (trees don't literally have heads, this is attributing a human action to trees).
20. This poetic device is called repetition.

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