

[I dreaded that first Robin, so] (ca. 1862)
By Emily Dickinson (United States)

Directions: This part consists of selections from prose works and questions on their content form and style. After reading each passage, choose the best answer to each question.

Note: Pay particular attention to the requirement of questions that contain the words NOT, LEAST, or EXCEPT.

Questions 1-12 concern “[I dreaded that first Robin, so]” by Emily Dickinson

1. The central opposition in the poem is between
 - a. the birds and the flowers
 - b. God and nature
 - c. childhood and adulthood
 - d. the speaker and Spring
 - e. reason and imagination
2. The speaker views the coming of the robin, the daffodils, and the bees as
 - a. welcome arrivals
 - b. inexplicable events
 - c. painful experiences
 - d. unexpected diversions
 - e. intimidating nuisances
3. The “first Shout” (line 6) most probably refers to
 - a. a cry made by the speaker
 - b. the robin’s song
 - c. the onset of Spring
 - d. the dawn of a new day
 - e. the sprouting of a flower
4. In line 7, “Pianos” most probably refers to
 - a. birds
 - b. musical instruments
 - c. bees
 - d. the changing of seasons
 - e. flowers
5. For the speaker, the robin and daffodils have which of the following in common?
 - a. An aura of divine judgment
 - b. The power to intoxicate
 - c. The power to wound
 - d. A distinct and personal malice
 - e. A sense of timelessness and peace
6. In context, the antecedent of “one” in line 15 most likely refers to
 - a. a bee
 - b. a personified Spring
 - c. a blade of grass
 - d. a daffodil
 - e. a robin
7. One effect of “They’re here, though” (line 21) is to emphasize the speaker’s feeling of
 - a. hopefulness for the future
 - b. surrender to their charms
 - c. justification of her attitude
 - d. guilt for her point of view
 - e. powerlessness to resist
8. In line 21, “failed” is best understood to mean
 - a. died
 - b. faded
 - c. sickened
 - d. was unhappy
 - e. was absent
9. The speaker perceives the coming of Spring chiefly in terms of
 - a. sounds and colors
 - b. odors and tastes
 - c. shapes and textures
 - d. music and poetry
 - e. fear and death

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10. Which of the following is a subject treated in the poem?
- The relationship between nature and human beings
 - Belief in the power of religion
 - The persecution of imagination
 - The power of forbearance to provide comfort
 - Fear of death
11. The most conventional, least idiosyncratic aspect of the poem is its
- tone
 - diction
 - rhymes
 - capitalization
 - meter
12. The sentiments expressed in the poem are closest to those expressed in which of the following quotations from other poets?
- “The poetry of earth is never dead.” (John Keats)
 - “April is the cruellest month.” (T.S. Eliot)
 - “Fair daffodils, we weep to see/You haste away so soon.” (Robert Herrick)
 - “And then my heart with pleasure fills/And dances with the daffodils.” (William Wordsworth)
 - “Nothing is so beautiful as spring—/When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush.” (Gerard Manley Hopkins)

END OF SECTION I.

**IF FINISHED BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, YOU MAY
CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION.**