



## Year 10 Poetry 15: Fragments of Silence

Read the following poem and answer the questions below:

### Fragments of Silence

In a room where echoes dwell,  
Silence weaves its muted spell,  
Shadows fall on walls of grey,  
Whispering secrets of the day.

The clock ticks slow, each beat a sigh,  
Moments drift as time slips by,  
A candle flickers, soft and pale,  
Its light a ghostly, waning veil.

Books lie closed on dusty shelves,  
Their stories hidden, no one tells,  
Dust motes dance in lazy flight,  
Caught in the fading afternoon light.

Stillness reigns in corners tight,  
Where memories fade into the night,  
And silence wraps its cloak around,  
The quiet hush, the only sound.



## Multiple Choice Questions

1. What does the poem primarily focus on?
  - A) The excitement of a new day
  - B) The beauty of nature
  - C) The presence and impact of silence
  - D) The chaos of modern life
  
2. The phrase "Shadows fall on walls of grey" is an example of:
  - A) Simile
  - B) Imagery
  - C) Hyperbole
  - D) Alliteration
  
3. What mood does the poem evoke?
  - A) Energetic
  - B) Melancholic
  - C) Joyful
  - D) Anxious
  
4. The line "A candle flickers, soft and pale" uses which language technique?
  - A) Metaphor
  - B) Simile
  - C) Personification
  - D) Alliteration



5. Which technique is used in "Books lie closed on dusty shelves"?

- A) Hyperbole
- B) Imagery
- C) Simile
- D) Irony

6. The description of the clock ticking slowly represents:

- A) A busy and chaotic environment
- B) The passage of time and its slow nature
- C) The excitement of a new event
- D) The rapid changes in life

7. What role does imagery play in the poem?

- A) It describes a lively party scene
- B) It enhances the depiction of a quiet, still room
- C) It portrays a bustling cityscape
- D) It illustrates a vibrant outdoor setting

8. The phrase "Dust motes dance in lazy flight" is an example of:

- A) Metaphor
- B) Simile
- C) Personification
- D) Hyperbole



9. How does the poet create a sense of stillness in the poem?

- A) By describing a lively and crowded space
- B) Through the use of imagery and descriptions of quiet, stagnant objects
- C) By focusing on fast-paced action
- D) Through a detailed description of a vibrant festival

10. What is the effect of the final stanza?

- A) It introduces a new setting.
- B) It reinforces the theme of silence and stillness.
- C) It shifts the mood to one of excitement.
- D) It describes a busy and noisy environment.



## Short Answer Questions

1. How does the poet use imagery to depict the atmosphere of the room?

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2. Discuss the significance of the candle in the poem.

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3. Analyze the impact of the phrase "Silence weaves its muted spell."

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4. What does the poet suggest about the passage of time in the poem?

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5. Explain the meaning and effect of the line "Books lie closed on dusty shelves."

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6. How does the structure of the poem contribute to its overall mood?

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7. What role does personification play in the poem, particularly in relation to the candle and dust motes?

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8. How does the poet convey a sense of fading memory or past experiences?

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9. In what ways does the poem reflect the theme of solitude?

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10. How does the final stanza reinforce the central theme of the poem?

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## Answer Key

### Multiple Choice Answers:

1. C) The presence and impact of silence
2. B) Imagery
3. B) Melancholic
4. C) Personification
5. B) Imagery
6. B) The passage of time and its slow nature
7. B) It enhances the depiction of a quiet, still room
8. C) Personification
9. B) Through the use of imagery and descriptions of quiet, stagnant objects
10. B) It reinforces the theme of silence and stillness.

### Short Answer Key:

1. The poet uses imagery such as "Shadows fall on walls of grey" and "Dust motes dance in lazy flight" to depict a still and silent room, enhancing the theme of quietness.
2. The candle symbolizes the fleeting nature of light and time, adding to the atmosphere of quiet contemplation and fading moments.
3. The phrase "Silence weaves its muted spell" suggests that silence envelops the room in a powerful, almost magical way, contributing to the overall mood of stillness.
4. The poet suggests that time moves slowly and can feel stagnant, as illustrated by the ticking clock and the gradual fading of light.
5. The line "Books lie closed on dusty shelves" emphasizes the neglect and abandonment of once-cherished stories, contributing to the theme of silence and stillness.
6. The poem's structure, with its descriptive quatrains and rhythmic flow, mirrors the gradual and steady nature of silence and time.
7. Personification is used in the poem to give human qualities to non-living objects like the candle and dust motes, enhancing the sense of stillness and solitude.
8. The poet conveys a sense of fading memory through the imagery of neglected books and the quiet, stagnant atmosphere of the room.
9. The poem reflects the theme of solitude through its focus on the quiet and still environment, depicting a space that is isolated and reflective.
10. The final stanza reinforces the central theme by continuing to describe the quiet and still atmosphere, emphasizing the ongoing presence of silence.





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