



## Year 9 Poetry 12: City of Echoes

Read the following poem and answer the questions below:

### City of Echoes

In the labyrinth of streets and stone,  
Where ancient voices are overthrown,  
The city stands with walls so high,  
Its history lost to the open sky.

Beneath the surface of the crowded square,  
Lie whispers of a time once rare,  
Of merchants' calls and laughter's cheer,  
Now faded into yesteryear.

The buildings loom like sentinels old,  
Guardians of stories yet untold,  
Their facades a mask of age and pride,  
Where echoes of the past still bide.

The river runs through streets of grey,  
Its waters murmur tales of day,  
Of ships that sailed and dreams that passed,  
Of fortunes gained and shadows cast.

Yet in the stillness of the night,  
When city lights are cold and bright,  
The echoes rise with haunting grace,  
Revealing time's forgotten face.



## Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the primary setting of the poem?

- A) A rural village
- B) A dense forest
- C) An ancient city
- D) A quiet beach

2. What does the city symbolize in the poem?

- A) Modernity and progress
- B) Forgotten history and lost voices
- C) Nature's beauty
- D) A place of peace and solitude

3. How are the buildings described in the poem?

- A) As new and vibrant
- B) As ancient and proud
- C) As dilapidated and broken
- D) As modern and sleek

4. What literary device is used in "Where ancient voices are overthrown"?

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



5. What do the “whispers of a time once rare” represent?
- A) The city’s current state
  - B) The memories and history of the past
  - C) The city’s future developments
  - D) The noise of modern life
6. How does the poet create a sense of nostalgia in the poem?
- A) Through descriptions of current city life
  - B) Through the use of vivid imagery of the past
  - C) By focusing on futuristic elements
  - D) By depicting a peaceful rural setting
7. What does the phrase “The echoes rise with haunting grace” suggest?
- A) The city’s current prosperity
  - B) The past’s influence on the present
  - C) The city’s bustling activity
  - D) The clarity of modern technology
8. What mood is evoked by the line “When city lights are cold and bright”?
- A) Joyful
  - B) Melancholic
  - C) Excited
  - D) Fearful



9. What role does the river play in the poem?

- A) It represents the city's future
- B) It symbolizes the flow of time and history
- C) It is a source of current events
- D) It reflects the city's modernity

10. Which technique is used in "Guardians of stories yet untold"?

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



## Short Answer Questions

1. What is the significance of the city in the poem?

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2. How does the poet use imagery to convey the theme of lost history?

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3. What role do the buildings play in the poem's narrative?

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4. Explain the personification of the city in the context of the poem.

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5. How does the poet create a contrast between the past and the present in the poem?

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6. Discuss the symbolism of the river in the city.

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7. What does the phrase “The echoes rise with haunting grace” suggest about the past?

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8. How does the poem explore the theme of memory and time?

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9. Describe the mood created by the line "Yet in the stillness of the night."

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10. How does the ending of the poem contribute to its overall theme of historical memory?

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## Answer Key

### Multiple Choice Answers:

1. C) An ancient city
2. B) Forgotten history and lost voices
3. B) As ancient and proud
4. B) Personification
5. B) The memories and history of the past
6. B) Through the use of vivid imagery of the past
7. B) The past's influence on the present
8. B) Melancholic
9. B) It symbolizes the flow of time and history
10. B) Metaphor

### Short Answer Key:

1. The city symbolizes a place where history is overshadowed by modern life, holding echoes of a past that has been lost or forgotten.
2. The poet uses imagery like “whispers of a time once rare” and “buildings loom like sentinels old” to convey the theme of lost history and nostalgia.
3. The buildings are depicted as ancient and proud, serving as silent witnesses to the city's past and its stories.
4. The city is personified as a guardian of history, with its buildings and streets holding the echoes and memories of bygone days.
5. The poet contrasts the past's vivid memories with the city's current state, highlighting how history is overshadowed by modern life.
6. The river symbolizes the continuous flow of time and the historical changes that have occurred within the city.
7. “The echoes rise with haunting grace” suggests that the past influences the present in a subtle and poignant way, revealing the forgotten aspects of history.
8. The poem explores memory and time by reflecting on the contrast between the city's current state and the rich history it once held.
9. The phrase “Yet in the stillness of the night” creates a mood of reflection and melancholy, emphasizing the quiet presence of the past in the present.
10. The ending reinforces the theme of historical memory by suggesting that the echoes of the past continue to influence and reveal themselves despite the city's modern façade.





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