



## Year 9 Poetry 5: The Midnight Train

Read the following poem and answer the questions below:

### The Midnight Train

Under the cloak of midnight's veil,  
A train whistles through the dark,  
Its iron wheels on rusted rails,  
Leave behind a fleeting spark.

Passengers in silent rows,  
Shadows cast in dim-lit hues,  
Their dreams ride on whispered hopes,  
Bound for destinations new.

The moon is a ghostly guide,  
Watching o'er the steel-bound stream,  
As the train carves through the night,  
On a bridge of silver beams.

Yet as the dawn begins to break,  
And night surrenders to the day,  
The train, like a fleeting thought,  
Fades into the light's first ray.



## Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the main subject of the poem?
  - A) A ship on the ocean
  - B) A car on the highway
  - C) A midnight train
  - D) A plane in the sky
  
2. What does the “midnight’s veil” symbolize in the poem?
  - A) The calm of the evening
  - B) The beginning of a journey
  - C) The mysteries of the night
  - D) The end of a journey
  
3. How are the passengers described in the poem?
  - A) As joyful and talkative
  - B) As tired and weary
  - C) As silent and hopeful
  - D) As anxious and fearful
  
4. What literary device is used in “Leave behind a fleeting spark”?
  - A) Simile
  - B) Metaphor
  - C) Personification
  - D) Onomatopoeia



5. What does the “ghostly guide” refer to?
- A) The wind
  - B) The moon
  - C) The stars
  - D) The train conductor
6. How does the poet create a sense of movement in the poem?
- A) Through descriptions of the train’s journey
  - B) Through the dialogue of the passengers
  - C) Through the depiction of the passing scenery
  - D) Through the changing weather
7. What does the phrase “a bridge of silver beams” refer to?
- A) The moonlight on the train
  - B) The train tracks
  - C) The river below
  - D) The passage of time
8. What mood is conveyed by the line “The train, like a fleeting thought”?
- A) Anxious
  - B) Peaceful
  - C) Reflective
  - D) Joyful



9. What does the poet mean by “night surrenders to the day”?

- A) Night is winning over day
- B) The train is slowing down
- C) The sun is rising
- D) The passengers are falling asleep

10. Which technique is used in “Watching o’er the steel-bound stream”?

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



## Short Answer Questions

1. What is the significance of the “midnight train” in the poem?

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2. How does the poet use imagery to describe the night?

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3. What role does the moon play in the poem’s narrative?

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4. Explain the metaphorical meaning of “night surrenders to the day.”

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5. How does the poet create a sense of anticipation in the poem?

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6. Discuss the symbolism of the “fleeting spark” left behind by the train.

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7. What does the “bridge of silver beams” symbolize in the poem?

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8. How does the poet convey the passage of time through the train’s journey?

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9. What is the effect of describing the train as “a fleeting thought”?

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10. How does the poem’s ending contribute to its overall theme of transience?

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## Answer Key

### Multiple Choice Answers:

1. C) A midnight train
2. C) The mysteries of the night
3. C) As silent and hopeful
4. B) Metaphor
5. B) The moon
6. A) Through descriptions of the train's journey
7. A) The moonlight on the train
8. C) Reflective
9. C) The sun is rising
10. B) Alliteration

### Short Answer Key:

1. The "midnight train" symbolizes a journey through the unknown, representing both physical travel and the passage through life's mysteries.
2. The poet uses imagery like "midnight's veil" and "ghostly guide" to create a vivid picture of the night, emphasizing its mysterious and quiet nature.
3. The moon serves as a guide for the train, symbolizing light in darkness and providing direction during the night.
4. "Night surrenders to the day" metaphorically represents the transition from darkness to light, symbolizing the end of the night and the beginning of a new day.
5. Anticipation is created through the description of the train's movement through the night and the gradual approach of dawn.
6. The "fleeting spark" symbolizes the brief impact or trace left behind by the train, suggesting the transitory nature of the journey.
7. The "bridge of silver beams" symbolizes the moonlight guiding the train, representing hope and continuity in the journey.
8. The poet conveys time's passage through the train's movement from night into day, symbolizing the flow of life.
9. Describing the train as "a fleeting thought" emphasizes its transitory nature, suggesting that the journey is brief and quickly passing.
10. The ending contributes to the theme of transience by illustrating how the train, like all moments in life, eventually fades into the light of a new day, symbolizing the impermanence of experiences.





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