



## Year 9 Poetry 9: Veil of the Canyon

Read the following poem and answer the questions below:

### Veil of the Canyon

In the depths of the canyon steep,  
Where shadows hide and echoes leap,  
The wind it weaves a mournful song,  
Of days gone by and nights so long.

The river's course, once bold and free,  
Now whispers softly to the sea,  
Its voice a ghost of what it was,  
A memory of nature's laws.

The cliffs that rise like ancient guards,  
Hold tales of time in weathered shards,  
Each rock a page in history,  
Each crack a mark of mystery.

But in the quiet of the night,  
When stars above burn cold and bright,  
The canyon speaks in tones so low,  
Of secrets only night will know.

For in the dark, where few have tread,  
Lie dreams of those long since dead,  
Their voices carried on the breeze,  
Through canyon walls and silent trees.



## Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the main setting of the poem?

- A) A bustling city
- B) A dense forest
- C) A deep canyon
- D) A peaceful meadow

2. What does the canyon symbolize in the poem?

- A) A place of refuge
- B) The passage of time
- C) A journey of discovery
- D) A hidden paradise

3. How is the river described in the poem?

- A) As roaring and fierce
- B) As frozen and still
- C) As whispering softly to the sea
- D) As overflowing its banks

4. What literary device is used in "The wind it weaves a mournful song"?

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



5. What do the “ancient guards” refer to in the poem?
- A) The trees surrounding the canyon
  - B) The cliffs that line the canyon
  - C) The river’s protective current
  - D) The animals that live in the canyon
6. How does the poet create a sense of mystery in the poem?
- A) Through descriptions of bright and open spaces
  - B) Through the use of shadowy imagery and low tones
  - C) Through the depiction of a bustling river
  - D) Through the vivid colors of the canyon
7. What does the phrase “veil of the canyon” suggest?
- A) The canyon is hiding something
  - B) The canyon is full of light
  - C) The canyon is a place of joy
  - D) The canyon is a passageway
8. What mood is evoked by the line “Lie dreams of those long since dead”?
- A) Joyful
  - B) Nostalgic
  - C) Somber
  - D) Fearful



9. What does the poet mean by “Each rock a page in history”?

- A) The rocks are smooth and new
- B) The rocks tell the story of the canyon’s past
- C) The rocks are eroding rapidly
- D) The rocks are being written on

10. Which technique is used in “Of secrets only night will know”?

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



## Short Answer Questions

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

---

---

---

---

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

---

---

---

---

3. What role does the wind play in the poem's narrative?

---

---

---

---

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

---

---

---

---



5. How does the poet create a contrast between day and night in the poem?

---

---

---

---

6. Discuss the symbolism of the “cliffs” in the canyon.

---

---

---

---

7. What does the poet mean by “a veil of the canyon”?

---

---

---

---

8. How does the poem explore the theme of time’s impact on nature?

---

---

---

---



9. Describe the mood created by the phrase "In the quiet of the night."

---

---

---

---

10. How does the ending of the poem contribute to its overall theme of hidden stories?

---

---

---

---



## Answer Key

### Multiple Choice Answers:

1. C) A deep canyon
2. B) The passage of time
3. C) As whispering softly to the sea
4. B) Personification
5. B) The cliffs that line the canyon
6. B) Through the use of shadowy imagery and low tones
7. A) The canyon is hiding something
8. C) Somber
9. B) The rocks tell the story of the canyon's past
10. C) Metaphor

### Short Answer Key:

1. The canyon symbolizes a place full of ancient stories and secrets, a natural formation that holds the memories of time within its walls.
2. The poet uses imagery like “weathered shards” and “Each rock a page in history” to convey the theme of history, emphasizing the canyon’s long and storied past.
3. The wind serves as a voice that carries the mournful song of the canyon, weaving through the landscape and echoing the memories of the past.
4. The personification of the river as “whispering softly to the sea” suggests that the once powerful river has become a gentle, quiet force, a shadow of its former self.
5. The poet contrasts the activity of the day, with the bright stars and cold light, with the quiet mystery of the night, where secrets are revealed only in whispers.
6. The “cliffs” symbolize the ancient guardians of the canyon, standing tall and weathered, each crack and mark telling the story of the canyon’s history.
7. “A veil of the canyon” suggests that the canyon hides its secrets behind a metaphorical veil, only revealing them to those who are willing to look deeply.
8. The poem explores time’s impact on nature by showing how the canyon, though ancient, continues to hold and reveal its stories through the passage of time.
9. The phrase “In the quiet of the night” creates a mood of stillness and contemplation, emphasizing the quiet, reflective nature of the canyon at night.
10. The ending reinforces the theme of hidden stories by suggesting that the canyon’s secrets are eternal, whispered on the breeze and known only to those who truly listen.





# Personalised English & Math Tutoring

Redeem Free Assessment

