A Dream Within a Dream by Edgar Allen Poe & Life Doesn’t Frighten Me by Maya Angelou

p. 529- 531

**Directions**: Read both poems and complete the chart below. Some words you may not know, others may be used in an unusual way. For each item write the question you would ask to figure out the meaning of the underlined word, then answer the question. Finally, write what you think the meaning is based on the context clues.

When you come across a word you do not know or a word used in an unusual way, you can sometimes figure out the meaning using context clues. To use context clues, ask questions such as these:

* What kind of word is it?
* What word can I use in place of it?
* Which other words in the sentence explain it?

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Word in Context** | **Question** | **Answer** | **Meaning** |
| 1. Panthers in the park/Strangers in the dark/No, they don’t frighten me at all
 | What kind of word is?  | It is a word that names an animal that frightens people  | Kind of scary animal |
| 1. Thus much let me avow-/You are not wrong
 |  |  |  |
| 1. I hold…/Grains of the golden sand-/How few! Yet how they creep/ Through my fingers to the deep
 |  |  |  |
| 1. Can I not grasp/Them with a tighter clasp?
 |  |  |  |
| 1. The sun was shining on the sea, /…He did his very best to make/The billows smooth and bright
 |  |  |  |

A Dream Within a Dream

1. A Dream Within a Dream has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ stanzas and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_lines.
2. Find 2 examples of Alliteration in the poem.

A.

B.

1. What is the speaker doing in lines 13-19 of “A Dream Within a Dream”?
2. How are these actions related to the idea of dreaming?
3. Explain the title of the poem. Hint: What dream is within what dream?

Life Doesn’t Frighten Me

1. Life Doesn’t Frighten Me is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ stanzas and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lines.
2. The poet uses lists of things to build rhythm and rhyme. What things does she list in the first stanza?
3. What repeated words help create rhythm in this poem?
4. Find an example of an allusion in the poem. \*Hint: an allusion is a reference to a real person, place thing or idea of historical, cultural or literary significance.
5. Why does the speaker smile at frightening things? What does this reveal about the speaker’s personality?
6. What word could be used to describe the tone of the poem?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Tone | Evidence/Line from the text support the tone |
|  |  |

**EOG Practice Questions**: Choose the best answer for each question.

1. The speak in “Life Doesn’t Frighten Me” says that Mother Goose, lions, and kissy little girls are alike in that
2. They do not frighten him or her
3. Only children fear them
4. They are imaginary beings
5. They make him or her laugh
6. At the beginning of a “A Dream Within a Dream”, two people seem to be
7. Falling in love for the first time
8. Parting from each other
9. Meeting after a long time
10. Talking about their dream
11. In “A Dream Within a Dream,” which phrase is a context clue to the meaning of grasp?

*While I weep-while I weep!/O God! Can I not grasp/Them with a tighter clasp?*

1. While I weep
2. O God! Can I not
3. Can I not grasp them
4. With a tighter clasp
5. In “The Walrus and the Carpenter,” the eldest Oyster will not go for a walk because it is
6. Too hungry
7. Too suspicious
8. Busy sleeping
9. Busy eating
10. The Walrus and the Carpenter trick the Oysters in order to
11. Get them to walk
12. Play with them
13. Eat them
14. Teach them about life
15. In these lines from “The Walrus and the Carpenter”, get it clear means “remove the sand from it.” Which words are a context clue to that meaning?

*“If seven maids with seven mops/Swept it for half a year,*

*Do you suppose,” the Walrus said,/That they could get it clear?”*

1. Seven maids
2. Swept it
3. For half a year
4. Do you suppose
5. In the poems in this collection, who face life with the most hopefulness and self-confidence?
6. The speaker in “Life Doesn’t Frighten Me”
7. The speaker in “A Dream Within a Dream”
8. The Oysters in “The Walrus and the Carpenter”
9. The walrus in “The Walrus and the Carpenter”