

Spring

Bending with the wind
the small tree shows its strength
and agrees to compromise.

The bitten half moon
rests in a dark blue blanket
and waits for morning.

The frozen earth cracks
Like a beast that is yawning
and awakens to spring.

A chipmunk ran quickly
across the rain-slicked boulder
and slid into grass.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. According to the first stanza of the poem, the tree did all of the following EXCEPT

- A bend with the wind
- B show its strength
- C lose a branch
- D agree to compromise

2. Read this stanza from the poem:

A chipmunk ran quickly
across the rain-slicked boulder
and slid into grass

Which of the following describes the relationship between these lines?

- A The lines show both sides of an argument.
- B The lines contrast two different events.
- C The lines compare the chipmunk to the boulder.
- D The lines show a cause and an effect.

3. To what does the author compare the frozen earth?

- A to a crack
- B to a beast
- C to a yawn
- D to the spring

4. Read these lines from the poem:

Bending with the wind
the small tree shows its strength
and agrees to compromise.

Based on the text, the word **compromise** means

- A to fake an illness
- B to settle a dispute
- C to awaken quietly
- D to move gracefully

5. The primary purpose of this poem is to describe

- A the motion of the wind
- B the season of spring
- C the phases of the moon
- D how a chipmunk moves

6. What phase of the moon is described in the poem?

7. What, do you think, is the “dark blue blanket” that covers the moon? How do you know?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

A small tree bends with the wind, _____ it does not break.

- A yet
- B or
- C until
- D unless

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

In the springtime, a chipmunk ran quickly across a rain-slicked boulder.

What? _____

(did) What? ran

How? _____

Where? _____

When? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** boulder: a large rock.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Non-Prose

Featured Text Structure: N/A

Passage Summary: "Spring" is a four-stanza poem that describes springtime.

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- C the phases of the moon
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6. What phase of the moon is described in the poem?

Suggested answer: It is a half moon. [stanza 2]

7. What, do you think, is the “dark blue blanket” that covers the moon? How do you know?

Suggested answer: The dark blue blanket is the nighttime sky. Not only can you infer that the moon comes out at night, but the poet also writes that the moon is waiting “for morning,” so it must be nighttime. [stanza 2]

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

A small tree bends with the wind, _____ it does not break.

- A yet**
- B or
- C until
- D unless

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

In the springtime, a chipmunk ran quickly across a rain-slicked boulder.

What? **a chipmunk**

(did) What? ran

How? **quickly**

Where? **across a rain-slicked boulder**

When? **in the springtime**

10. Vocabulary Word: boulder: a large rock.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.