

**Grade 11**  
**English Literature**  
**Worksheet April 6-10, 2020**

**Read the poem and respond to the questions that follow.**

**Orchids**

By Hazel Simmonds-Mcdonald

I leave this house  
box pieces of the five week life I've gathered.

I'll send them on  
to fill spaces in my future life.

One thing is left  
a spray of orchid someone gave  
from bouquet one who  
makes a ritual of flower-giving sent.

The orchids have no fragrance  
but purple petals draw you  
to look at the purple heart.

I watered them once  
when the blossoms were full blown  
like polished poems.  
I was sure they'd wilt  
and I would toss them out with the five week litter.

They were stubborn.  
I starved them.  
They would not die.

This morning the bud at the stalk's tip unfurled.

I think I'll pluck the full-blown blooms  
press them between pages of memory.

Perhaps in their thin dried transparency

I'll discover their peculiar poetry.

1. What is the theme of the poem?
- (a) relocating to a new home
  - (b) nurturing a spray of orchids
  - (c) the poet's impression of the orchids
  - (d) moving up in life

2. What is the persona doing in the poem?
- (a) she is cleaning her house
  - (b) She is organizing boxes
  - (c) She is packing to move out
  - (d) She is thinking about poetry

3. What does the expression "One who makes a ritual of flower given sent" mean (lines 7-8)?
- (a) The person who gave the orchids to the persona often uses flowers as a part of rituals
  - (b) Giving flowers is a religious practice that is done when someone is moving.
  - (c) The person who gave the flower as a gift is very religious
  - (d) Flower giving is a common practice of the individual who gave away the orchids

4. "They were stubborn" (line 17), What figure of speech is being used in this line?
- (a) Metaphor
  - (b) Alliteration
  - (c) Personification
  - (d) Hyperbole

5. What is suggested about the persona in lines 15-19?
- (a) The persona is a very confident person
  - (b) She does not like the fact she only got a spray of flowers
  - (c) She is a heartless individual
  - (d) She is not interested in preserving the flowers.

6. What can we infer about the persona based on her actions?

- (a) She is an unreliable individual
- (b) She is not appreciative of gifts she receives
- (c) She does not get attached to things easily
- (d) She owns many books

7. What is the main contrast that is highlighted in the poem?

- (a) The persona moved in with big dreams and then moved out five weeks later
- (b) There is an interesting difference between the orchid's lack of smell and the colour of their petals
- (c) Resilience in the face of the persona's negligence
- (d) The type of occasion determines the size of the flowers someone receives

8. "Pages of memory" (line 22) is a/an

- (a) paradox
- (b) metaphor
- (c) onomatopoeia
- (d) repetition

9. What does the last four lines of the poem reveal about the persona's intention?

- (a) The persona intends to pick the flowers and put them in a book
- (b) She intends to forget about the orchids once they have dried up
- (c) She is intrigued by the flowers and plans to find out more about what makes them unique
- (d) She thinks the best thing to do is to preserve them in her memory once they die.

10. The tone of the poem is best described as

- (a) bored
- (b) confused
- (c) annoyed

(d) contemplative

11. The poem explores all of the following EXCEPT

(a) the natural environment

(b) man vs nature

(c) religion

(d) resilience

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## **If We Must Die**

By Claude McKay

If we must die, let it not be like hogs  
Hunted and penned in an inglorious spot,  
While round us bark the mad and hungry dogs,  
Making their mock at our accursèd lot.  
If we must die, O let us nobly die,  
So that our precious blood may not be shed  
In vain; then even the monsters we defy  
Shall be constrained to honour us though dead!  
O kinsmen! we must meet the common foe!  
Though far outnumbered let us show us brave,  
And for their thousand blows deal one death-blow!  
What though before us lies the open grave?  
Like men we'll face the murderous, cowardly pack,  
Pressed to the wall, dying, but fighting back!

1. The conflict in the poem is mainly between?

- (a) the speaker and his own people
- (b) the speaker and the men in power
- (c) the speaker and himself
- (d) the speaker and society

2. Who is MOST LIKELY the speaker in the poem?

- (a) rebel soldiers
- (b) freedom fighter
- (c) Kinsmen
- (d) politician

3. The intended audience for this poem is?

- (a) criminal elements
- (b) a disadvantaged group of people in society
- (c) weak people
- (d) men in powerful position in society

4. Which of the following phrases best describes the speaker of the poem's attitude towards death?

- (a) furious and upset
- (b) depressed and disgusted
- (c) defiant and dignified
- (d) calm and relaxed

5. Which of the following best paraphrases the speaker's advice to the listener?

- (a) Do not fight against an enemy you cannot defeat.
- (b) Sometimes avoiding a tough fight is best.
- (c) Fight back, even though we will probably die.

(d) Avoid getting pushed up against the wall, or else the enemy will win.

6. What is this poem mostly about?

(a) how war is sometimes unavoidable

(b) how men should fight back courageously to die honorably

(c) how difficult it is to fight when you are outnumbered by the enemy

(d) how a group of noble men can always defeat a vicious enemy

7. Reread the first 4 lines of the poem.

“If we must die, let it not be like hogs

Hunted and penned in an inglorious spot,

While round us bark the mad and hungry dogs,

Making their mock at our accursèd lot.”

What is the purpose of the first 4 lines?

(a) to use a comparison to show how they will not die without a fight

(b) to paint a picture of a noble death

(c) to suggest that hogs are indecent and weak creatures

(d) to accuse the enemy of acting like common house pets

8. Reread lines 7 & 8.

“In vain; then even the monsters we defy

Shall be constrained to honor us though dead!”

What is the meaning of lines 7 & 8?

(a) that the enemy are a bunch of emotionless monsters

(b) that dying honourably forces even the enemy to pay their respects

(c ) that they are ready to fight back against the enemy despite the dire circumstances

(d) that they are united as one front against an un-unified enemy

9. Line 8: “Shall be constrained to honor us though dead”

In line 8, "constrained" means about the same as...

(a) revived

(b) forced

(c ) invited

( d) proud

10. The tone of this poem can BEST be described as:

(a) hopeful

(b ) cautious

(c ) inspirational

(d ) critical

Email Responses to:

Ms. Lloyd: [msslloydvauxhallhigh@yahoo.com](mailto:msslloydvauxhallhigh@yahoo.com)

Ms. Green: drop off activities at the school's office.

