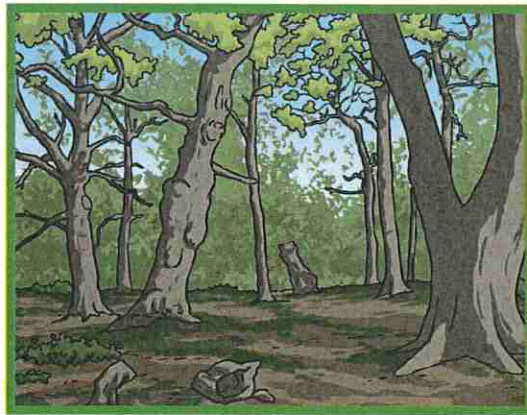


Reading Booklet

Year 6 Reading Assessment - Poetry



Throwing a Tree

Throwing a Tree

The two executioners stalk along over the knolls,
Bearing two axes with heavy heads shining and wide,
And a long limp two-handled saw toothed for cutting great boles,
And so they approach the proud tree that bears the death-mark on its side.

Jackets doffed they swing axes and chop away just above ground,
And the chips fly about and lie white on the moss and fallen leaves;
Till a broad deep gash in the bark is hewn all the way round,
And one of them tries to hook upward a rope, which at last he achieves.

The saw then begins, till the top of the tall giant shivers:
The shivers are seen to grow greater with each cut than before:
They edge out the saw, tug the rope; but the tree only quivers,
And kneeling and sawing again, they step back to try pulling once more.

Then, lastly, the living mast sways, further sways: with a shout
Job and Ike rush aside. Reared the end of its long staying powers
The tree crashes downward: it shakes all its neighbours throughout,
And two hundred years' steady growth has been ended in less than two hours.

-Thomas Hardy

English

KS2

2016

Year 6 Reading Assessment Throwing a Tree Answer Booklet

First Name						
Middle Name						
Last Name						
Date of Birth	Day		Month		Year	
School Name						
DfE Number						

Questions 13 to 25 are about 'Throwing a Tree'

13. What does the word 'stalk' mean and what does it suggest about the tree fellers?

2 marks

14. Circle the word that is closest in meaning to 'doffed'.

chopped

tied

removed

swing

1 mark

15. What evidence is there in the poem that chopping the tree is a difficult task?

2 marks

16. Order these events from the poem. The first one has been done for you.

An axe is used to chop a broad gash all around the trunk.

The saw is used along with the rope until the tree comes down.

The tree is marked in advance ready for cutting.

1

A rope is hooked upward.

1 mark

total for this page

17. Write the correct tools to match the descriptions in this table.

1 mark

Tool	Description
	Heavy head shining and wide
	Long limp two-handed

18. How long had the tree been growing for?

1 mark

19. How does the poet try to make the reader feel sorry for the tree? Refer to the text to support your answer.

3 marks

20. What are the names given to the tree fellers?

1 mark

total for this page

21. Which of these sentences best summarises the poet's feelings about the tree being chopped down? Tick **one**.

The poet is celebrating and happy about the event.

The poet is glad the tree was chopped down because it was too old.

The poet seems sorrowful and disappointed that it has happened.

The poet doesn't really mind whether the tree is cut down or not.

1 mark

22. Which of these words or phrases are used to describe the tree? Tick **three**.

Living mast

Heavy head

Long and limp

Proud

Broad and deep

Tall giant

1 mark

23. What is meant by the phrase 'it shakes all its neighbours'?

1 mark

24. How long did the whole process take to chop down the tree?

1 mark

total for this page

Look at the line: 'And so they approach the proud tree that bears the death-mark'.

25. Explain the meaning of the words 'bears' and 'death-mark' in this sentence.

Word	Meaning
bears	
death-mark	

End of questions about 'Throwing a Tree'



****END OF TEST****

total for this page

English

KS2

2016

Year 6 Reading Assessment Marking Scheme for Poetry

question	answer	marks	notes
13.	What does the word 'stalk' mean and what does it suggest about the tree fellers?		
	The word 'stalk' means to follow or pursue something that you are trying to capture, or to go in search of prey, in particular by moving slowly and quietly.	2	Content domain: 2a - give/explain the meaning of words in context. Award 2 marks for the correct answer indicated.
14.	Circle the word that is closest in meaning to 'doffed'		
	removed	1	Content domain: 2a - give/explain the meaning of words in context. Award 1 mark for the correct option indicated.
15.	What evidence is there in the poem that chopping the tree is a difficult task?		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires tools such as axes, saws and rope Actions such as 'swing axes', 'chop away' Tug the rope then step back to pull some more – doesn't come down easily Takes nearly two hours/long staying powers indicating resistance Several separate stages to complete – chopping, sawing, pulling 	2	Content domain: 2d - make inferences from the text / explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text. Award 2 marks for references to any 2 of the points indicated.
16.	Order these events from the poem. The first one has been done for you.		
	<p>An axe is used to chop a broad gash all around the trunk. - 2</p> <p>The saw is used along with the rope until the tree comes down. - 4</p> <p>The tree is marked in advance ready for cutting. - 1</p> <p>A rope is hooked upward. - 3</p>	1	Content domain: 2c - summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph. Award 1 mark for the correct sequence indicated.
17.	Write the correct tools to match the descriptions in this table		
	<p>Axe - Heavy head shining and wide</p> <p>Saw - Long limp two-handed</p>	1	Content domain: 2b - retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction. Award 1 mark for the table completed correctly.
18.	How long had the tree been growing for?		
	two hundred (200) years	1	Content domain: 2b - retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction. Award 1 mark for the correct answer indicated.

19.	How does the poet try to make the reader feel sorry for the tree? Refer to the text to support your answer.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of personification/giving the impression the tree has feelings ('proud', 'tall giant', 'living mast'). • The tree is referred to as a living thing ('death-mark', 'shivers'). • The tree seems to try to withstand/resist the action but to no avail ('tree only quivers', 'end of its long staying powers'). • The tree fellers are negatively portrayed/made to seem like bad guys ('executioners', 'stalk'). • The action of chopping the tree is described as if causing pain/injury ('broad deep gash', 'shivers are seen to grow'). • Its age and long history are compared to how quickly it is chopped down ('two hundred years steady growth', 'ended in less than two hours'). 	Up to 3	<p>Content domain: 2g - identify/explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases.</p> <p>Award 1 mark for each valid point, up to a maximum of 3 marks. Answer must use supporting evidence from the text in order to gain full marks.</p>
20.	What are the names given to the tree fellers?		
	Job and Ike	1	<p>Content domain: 2b - retrieve and record information/identify key details from fiction and non-fiction.</p> <p>Award 1 mark for the correct answer indicated.</p>
21.	Which of these sentences best summarises the poet's feelings about the tree being chopped down? Tick one		
	The poet seems sorrowful and disappointed that it has happened.	1	<p>Content domain: 2d - make inferences from the text/explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text.</p> <p>Award 1 mark for the correct option indicated.</p>
22.	Which of these words or phrases are used to describe the tree? Tick three		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living mast • Proud • Tall giant 	1	<p>Content domain: 2b - retrieve and record information/identify key details from fiction and non-fiction.</p> <p>Award 1 mark for all 3 correct options indicated.</p>
23.	What is meant by the phrase 'it shakes all its neighbours'?		
	The force of the tree crashing to the ground causes other trees to shake.	1	<p>Content domain: 2d - make inferences from the text/explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text.</p> <p>Award 1 mark for an answer indicating the force of the tree crashing to the ground, causing other trees to shake.</p>

24.	How long did the whole process take to chop down the tree?		
	(less than) two hours	1	<p>Content domain: 2b - retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction.</p> <p>Award 1 mark for the correct answer indicated.</p>
25.	Explain the meaning of the words 'bears' and 'death-mark' in this sentence.		
	<p>bears - displaying or showing; has been marked with something to make it stand out; it has or continues to have the mark.</p> <p>death-mark - some kind of symbol or sign indicating that this is the tree to be felled; 'death' means it will be chopped down and killed as it is a living thing.</p>	Up to 2	<p>Content domain: 2a - give /explain the meaning of words in context.</p> <p>Award 1 mark for each meaning, showing an understanding of the word in its context.</p>
		Total 18	