

Rain after school

Poetry | 6 questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read once for the main idea. Look back at the passage while answering. Find words that support each answer.

The playground wears a silver coat;
The chalk lines fade away.
A leaf becomes a little boat
And sails across the grey.

The drain drinks down the racing stream;
A twig turns at the grate.
I watch the water's swirling seam
While Mum waits by the gate.

The clouds pull back. A sparrow lands
Upon the dripping rail.
I lift my bag with both my hands
And leave the leaf to sail.

Questions

Choose one answer for each question. You can refer to the passage. The answer notes start on a separate page.

1. What becomes a little boat?

- A. A sparrow
- B. A school bag
- C. A leaf
- D. A chalk line

2. Who waits by the gate?

- A. Mum
- B. The speaker's brother
- C. A teacher
- D. A sparrow

3. What does "swirling" suggest about the water?

- A. It moves round and round
- B. It turns into ice
- C. It rises straight upwards
- D. It stays completely still

4. What does "The playground wears a silver coat" describe?

- A. A jacket left on a bench
- B. Snow covering the school
- C. Metal sheets on the ground
- D. Rainwater shining across the playground

5. What change happens in the final stanza?

- A. The rain becomes much heavier
- B. The playground fills with children
- C. The gate closes for the night
- D. The clouds begin to clear

6. Why does the poet describe the drain as drinking?

- A. To tell the reader to drink rainwater
- B. To explain that it needs a cup
- C. To give its movement a living quality
- D. To show that it is blocked

Answers and explanations

Try the questions before reading these notes. A practice score is not an exam grade.

1. C. A leaf

The first stanza says a leaf becomes a little boat.

2. A. Mum

The second stanza names Mum as the person waiting.

3. A. It moves round and round

Swirling describes a turning or circling movement.

4. D. Rainwater shining across the playground

The surrounding lines describe rainwater, fading chalk and a floating leaf; the coat is an image for the wet surface.

5. D. The clouds begin to clear

“The clouds pull back” suggests the sky is beginning to clear.

6. C. To give its movement a living quality

The drain is given an action associated with living things, making the water's disappearance vivid.

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