

Read the selection. Then choose the best answer to each question. Fill in the answer on your answer sheet.

## A Poison Tree

by William Blake

I was angry with my friend:  
I told my wrath, my wrath did end.  
I was angry with my foe;  
I told it not, my wrath did grow.

5

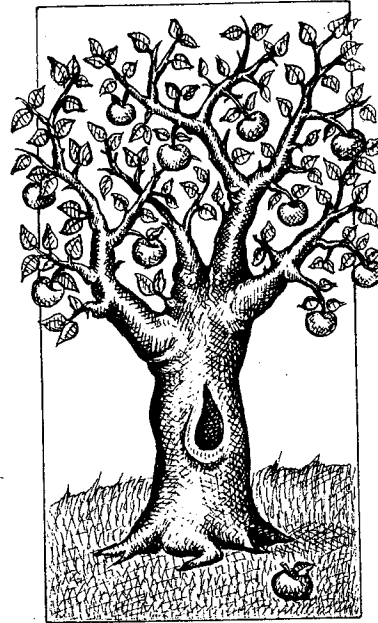
And I water'd it in fears,  
Night & morning with my tears;  
And I sunned it with my smiles  
And with soft deceitful wiles.<sup>1</sup>

10

And it grew both day and night,  
Till it bore an apple bright;  
And my foe beheld it shine,  
And he knew that it was mine,

15

And into my garden stole  
When the night had veil'd the pole<sup>2</sup>:  
In the morning glad I see  
My foe outstretch'd beneath the tree.



<sup>1</sup> wiles: tricks

<sup>2</sup> pole: the North or South pole

30 What makes the first stanza visually stand out from the other stanzas?

- F The lines are shorter.
- G Every line starts with *I*.
- H Every line ends with punctuation.
- J The lines are different lengths.

31 Read lines 1 and 2 from the poem.

*I was angry with my friend:  
I told my wrath, my wrath did end.*

Which word from the lines helps you determine the meaning of the word wrath?

- A *angry*
- B *friend*
- C *told*
- D *end*

32 Based on this poem, which statement would you most expect the speaker to make?

- F Holding your anger in can be destructive.
- G Only worry about making peace with your friends.
- H Take time to enjoy the beauty around you.
- J Water your garden and care for it well.

33 What is most likely the reason the foe is "outstretch'd beneath the tree"?

- A He fell out of the tree when he tried to pick the apple.
- B He died after eating the poison apple.
- C He fell asleep while waiting for the speaker to come outside.
- D The speaker killed him with his angry thoughts alone.

**34** What does the poison tree symbolize?

- F** The speaker
  - G** The speaker's enemy
  - H** The speaker's anger
  - J** The enemy's bad behavior
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**35** In the second stanza (lines 5–8), why does the speaker smile at his enemy?

- A** The speaker has forgiven his enemy.
  - B** The speaker is being dishonest about his feelings.
  - C** The speaker makes a funny joke.
  - D** The speaker is trying to befriend his enemy.
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**36** In the second stanza (lines 5–8), what does the speaker suggest will fuel anger?

- F** Fear
  - G** Hunger
  - H** Money
  - J** Theft
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**37** Most of the imagery in the poem appeals to the sense of —

- A** sight
  - B** hearing
  - C** touch
  - D** smell
- 

**38** What is the effect of the use of first person in this selection?

- F** It makes the events more believable.
- G** It allows the author to use more persuasive language.
- H** It emphasizes the speaker's feelings.
- J** It helps the reader better understand the enemy's point of view.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**39** Read lines 15 and 16 from the poem.

*In the morning glad I see  
My foe outstretch'd beneath the tree.*

Which words suggest that the speaker is still angry at his enemy?

- A** *morning, see*
- B** *glad, foe*
- C** *see, beneath*
- D** *beneath, tree*