

Name: _____ Class: _____

After the Rain

By Caryl S. Ulrich
1998

In this poem by Caryl S. Ulrich, a speaker describes the world after it rains. As you read, take notes on how the rain changed the environment.

- [1] The wet leaves drip
On the wet brown wall.
The wet sky hangs
Above it all.
- [5] The daffodils
Bow down their heads.
The tulips lie down
In their beds.
But Spring smells fresh
- [10] In the new-washed air,
And robins hip-hop
Everywhere.
There underneath
The apple tree
- [15] The petals make
A wide pink sea.
In puddles deep
As fairy moats¹
The beetles sail
- [20] In flower boats.



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1. a deep ditch, typically around a castle, that is then filled with water

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: What is the main theme of the poem?
 - A. The world always feels a little gloomier after a heavy rain.
 - B. Rain helps the plants and animals survive on earth.
 - C. Rain changes how the world looks and feels.
 - D. Sunny days are better than rainy days.

2. PART B: Which detail from the poem best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "The wet sky hangs / Above it all." (Lines 3-4)
 - B. "The tulips lie down / In their beds. / But Spring smells fresh" (Lines 7-9)
 - C. "There underneath / The apple tree" (Lines 13-14)
 - D. "The beetles sail / In flower boats." (Lines 19-20)

3. What does the poet mean when she describes the petals as "a wide pink sea" (Line 16)?
 - A. The petals move like waves on the ground.
 - B. The petals are collecting water on the ground.
 - C. The petals are the color of the sea.
 - D. There are many petals on the ground.

4. How do the insects and animals seem to feel about the recent rain?
