

Read the poem. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Old Oaken Bucket

by Samuel Woodworth

How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood,
When fond recollection presents them to view!
The orchard, the meadow, and deep-tangled wildwood,
And every loved spot which my infancy knew,
5 The wide-spreading pond and the mill which stood by it,
The bridge and the rock where the cataract¹ fell;
The cot² of my father, the dairy house nigh it,
And e'en the rude bucket which hung in the well.
The old oaken bucket, the iron-bound bucket,
10 The moss-covered bucket which hung in the well.

That moss-covered bucket I hailed as a treasure;
For often at noon, when returned from the field,
I found it the source of an exquisite pleasure,
The purest and sweetest that nature can yield.
15 How ardent I seized it with hands that were glowing!
And quick to the white-pebbled bottom it fell;
Then soon, with the emblem of truth overflowing,
And dripping with coolness, it rose from the well;
The old oaken bucket, the iron-bound bucket,
20 The moss-covered bucket, arose from the well.

¹ **cataract:** a large waterfall or steep rapids

² **cot:** a small house

Go On



How sweet from the green mossy brim to receive it,
As poised on the curb, it inclined to my lips!
Not a full blushing goblet could tempt me to leave it,
Though filled with the nectar that Jupiter sips.
25 And now, far removed from the loved situation,
The tear of regret will intrusively swell,
As fancy reverts to my father's plantation,
And sighs for the bucket which hangs in the well;
The old oaken bucket, the iron-bound bucket,
30 The moss-covered bucket which hangs in the well.

What is the meaning of the underlined phrase from line 15 of the poem?

"How ardent I seized it with hands that were glowing!"

- Ⓐ The speaker's body was producing light.
- Ⓑ The speaker was excited to drink the water.
- Ⓒ The speaker's body was warm to the touch.
- Ⓓ The speaker found the bucket to weigh little.

Which words from the poem express the speaker's feelings about his youth?

- Ⓐ "How dear to my heart"
- Ⓑ "I seized it"
- Ⓒ "far removed"
- Ⓓ "The tear of regret"

Which statement describes how the second stanza of the poem contributes to its overall meaning?

- Ⓐ It contrasts the battered old bucket with the surrounding beauty of nature.
- Ⓑ It develops the setting by listing the different features of the family's farm.
- Ⓒ It provides detailed information about how to operate an old-fashioned well.
- Ⓓ It describes the speaker's fond memories of drawing water from the well.
- Ⓔ It explains why the iron on the bucket felt like it was glowing with heat.

The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

Read the following lines from the poem.

“Not a full blushing goblet could tempt me to leave it,
Though filled with the nectar that Jupiter sips.”

What does the poet mean to express about the speaker through this figurative language?

- Ⓐ Nothing could taste better to him than the water from the well.
- Ⓑ The sweetness of the water attracted him like a bee to honey.
- Ⓒ Drinking from the big bucket made him imagine he was a Roman god.
- Ⓓ The water was all he had to drink so he tried to make the best of it.

Part B

Select a line from the poem that supports the answer in Part A.

- Ⓐ “And e’en the rude bucket which hung in the well.”
- Ⓑ “I found it the source of an exquisite pleasure,”
- Ⓒ “The tear of regret will intrusively swell,”
- Ⓓ “The old oaken bucket, the iron-bound bucket,”

How does the speaker use the first stanza to contribute to the meaning of the poem as a whole?

- Ⓐ He introduces the topic of the well's depth and the reasons it affected his youth.
- Ⓑ He remembers the occasions he spent in the country and the importance of water.
- Ⓒ He prepares the reader for a discussion of childhood memories and their effects.
- Ⓓ He recalls how much he enjoyed his youth on the farm and introduces the bucket.

The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

How would the speaker describe the scene shown in the illustration?

- Ⓐ lonely
- Ⓑ quiet
- Ⓒ pleasant
- Ⓓ boring

Part B

Which line from the poem supports the answer in Part A?

- Ⓐ "The orchard, the meadow, and deep-tangled wildwood,"
- Ⓑ "And every loved spot which my infancy knew,"
- Ⓒ "The purest and sweetest that nature can yield."
- Ⓓ "And quick to the white-pebbled bottom it fell;"

Go On

What does the illustration help the reader understand about the poem?

- Ⓐ that the speaker remembers how difficult his life on the farm used to be
- Ⓑ that the speaker feels joy in recalling simple things from his childhood
- Ⓒ that the speaker is bothered by how much work it used to be just to get a drink
- Ⓓ that the speaker is saddened by how far his childhood home was from other people

