

THE SCHOOL BOY

REFERENCE TO THE CONTEXT:

A. “But under a cruel eye outworn,

The little ones spend the day

In sighing and dismay.”

1. Identify the figure of speech used in the phrase “cruel eye”.
2. State the emotion conveyed by the phrase “sighing and dismay”.
3. Indicate the poet’s tone towards the school system in this stanza.
4. Mention the idea about childhood suggested in these lines.
5. Point out one way in which learning is shown as oppressive in the stanza.
6. Identify the contextual meaning of the word “outworn” as used in the stanza.

B. “How can the bird that is born for joy

Sit in a cage and sing?”

1. Identify the figure of speech used in comparing the child to a bird.
2. State the symbolic meaning of the word “cage” in the stanza.
3. Indicate the poet’s attitude towards restrictive education shown here.
4. Mention the central idea conveyed through the bird image.
5. Point out the contradiction highlighted between joy and confinement.
6. State the contextual meaning of the word “born” as used in the stanza.