

Read the selections below. Then answer the questions.

# Snake

*by Emily Dickinson*



A narrow fellow in the grass  
Occasionally rides;  
You may have met him, —did you not?  
His notice sudden is.

5      The grass divides as with a comb,  
A spotted shaft is seen;  
And then it closes at your feet  
And opens further on.

10     He likes a boggy acre,  
A floor too cool for corn.  
Yet when a child, and barefoot,  
I more than once, at morn,

15        Have passed, I thought, a whip-lash  
          Unbraiding in the sun, -  
          When, stooping to secure it,  
          It wrinkled, and was gone.

20        Several of nature's people  
          I know, and they know me;  
          I feel for them a transport  
          Of cordiality;

          But never met this fellow,  
          Attended or alone,  
          Without a tighter breathing,  
          And zero at the bone.

**Use “Snake” to answer questions 1–5.**

**1** In stanza 1, the poet emphasizes how quickly the snake appears by —

- F** capitalizing the letter *h* in *his*
- G** using the word *notice* instead of *appearance*
- H** putting the word *sudden* before the verb
- J** using a short line

**2** The poet describes the grass dividing “as with a comb” in line 5 to suggest that —

- A** the grass looks long and silky like hair
- B** the snake pulls out grass as it travels
- C** the snake moves in a zigzag fashion
- D** the path formed by the snake’s movement is narrow

**3** From lines 11–16, the reader can tell that the speaker —

- F** tried to pick up the snake by mistake
- G** was curious about the shape of the snake
- H** didn’t have enough money for shoes
- J** enjoyed nature in all its forms

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**4** The poet uses short and long lines to suggest —

- A** the way the snake strikes
- B** the poet's mixed feelings toward the snake
- C** the curling up and unwinding of the snake
- D** the quickness of the snake's movement

**5** In the last line, the poet uses the metaphor "zero at the bone" to suggest that —

- F** the appearance of the snake fills the speaker with fear
- G** the outside temperature has dropped significantly
- H** the snake feels cold and slimy
- J** the speaker is worried that the snake will not survive



# Answer Key

<b>1</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>(Figure 19) (Reading/Comprehension Skills)</b>	<b>6.Figure19D</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>(04) Comprehension of Literary Text/Poetry</b>	<b>6.4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>(04) Comprehension of Literary Text/Poetry</b>	<b>6.4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>(04) Comprehension of Literary Text/Poetry</b>	<b>6.4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>(04) Comprehension of Literary Text/Poetry</b>	<b>6.4</b>