

A Bird Came Down the Walk

By Emily Dickinson

A Bird came down the Walk—
He did not know I saw—
He bit an Angleworm in halves
And ate the fellow, raw,

And then he drank a Dew 5
From a convenient Grass—
And then hopped sidewise to the Wall
To let a Beetle pass—

He glanced with rapid eyes 10
That hurried all around—
They looked like frightened Beads, I thought—
He stirred his Velvet Head

Like one in danger, Cautious,
I offered him a Crumb 15
And he unrolled his feathers
And rowed him softer home—

Than Oars divide the Ocean,
Too silver for a seam—
Or Butterflies, off Banks of Noon
Leap, plashless as they swim. 20

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is the speaker watching throughout this poem?

- A. a leaf
- B. a beetle
- C. a bird
- D. a worm

2. This poem uses rhyme in many places. What are two lines of the poem that rhyme?

- A. lines 2 and 4
- B. lines 1 and 3
- C. lines 2 and 3
- D. lines 3 and 4

3. Read lines 9-13 of the poem. Based on this evidence, what can you conclude about how the bird is feeling?

- A. The bird feels nervous and scared.
- B. The bird feels proud and strong.
- C. The bird feels excited and happy.
- D. The bird feels bored and restless.

4. When in the poem does the bird most likely notice that the speaker is watching him?

- A. lines 9-10
- B. lines 17-18

- C. lines 1-2
- D. lines 7-8

5. What is the main idea of this poem?

- A. A bird comes down the walk and then swims through a puddle of water.
- B. A bird comes down the walk and eats crumbs out of the speaker's hand.
- C. A bird comes down the walk, eats a worm, and drinks a dewdrop from some grass.
- D. A bird comes down the walk but flies away when the speaker offers him a crumb.

6. Read these lines from the poem:

He stirred his Velvet Head

Like one in danger, Cautious, I offered him a Crumb
And he unrolled his feathers And
rowed him softer home-

Than Oars divide the Ocean,

What does the phrase "rowed him softer home" mean here?

- A. chirped quietly
- B. hopped onto a boat
- C. flew away softly
- D. swam through a puddle

7. Read these lines from the poem:

He glanced with rapid eyes That hurried all around-
They looked like frightened Beads, I
thought-

To whom or what does the word "they" refer?

- A. the speaker and the bird
- B. the bird and his friends
- C. the bird's wings
- D. the bird's eyes

8. Read the first two stanzas of the poem. What are three things that the bird does in this part of the poem?

9. Describe how the bird probably feels in the first two stanzas of the poem. Use evidence from the poem to support your answer.

10. How do the bird's feelings change over the course of the poem? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.