

### *My Father Goes a-Hunting Tonight*

My father goes a-hunting tonight.  
Mother has stuffed his haversack  
With mashed plantain, spiced with  
Fish, pepper, onions, salt and beef  
5 For his lone recluse in the  
Deep night of snakes and scorpions  
Of the jungle gloom.

My father goes a-hunting tonight.  
And again, mother takes to  
10 Her sour bed,  
Worrying and praying  
Wake-keeping for her man.

My father goes a-hunting tonight.  
Sometimes his efforts are  
15 Only a wild goose gaze.\*  
Rain drops hit like bullets,  
Drench him, cold and shivering,  
Far away from human abode.

#### Section 1 – Poetry

My father goes a-hunting tonight.  
20 And the community is agog  
Awaiting bush-meat;  
Yet his only shot  
For the whole night  
Might turn out to be just  
25 The reflection from  
His hunting light in  
The shiny, bright eyes  
Of a rat!

Kojo Gyinaye Kyei

\* *a wild goose gaze* a futile search, as in the expression  
'wild goose chase'



## Questions

- 1 Stanza 1 creates the impression of
  - A preparation and danger.
  - B suspense and need.
  - C danger and longing.
  - D distance and isolation.
- 2 'Wake-keeping for her man' (line 12) suggests that the mother
  - A keeps everybody awake worrying about her husband.
  - B is accustomed to her husband's hunting and over time, approves of it.
  - C prays for her husband as she plans his funeral.
  - D stays up late and frets because she fears that he might not return alive.
- 3 Lines 6 and 12 evoke a feeling of
  - A danger and anxiety.
  - B suspense and loneliness.
  - C anger and superstition.
  - D panic and intrigue.

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Guide to answering questions

- 4 What is the effect created by, 'And the community is agog / Awaiting bush-meat' (lines 20–21)?  
It
  - A emphasizes the importance of the father as village elder.
  - B underscores the expectancy and desire for food.
  - C creates tension and anxiety as they await the food.
  - D suggests a sense of hope for daybreak.

- 5 Which of the following does the poet use MOST effectively to portray the hunt?
- A Repetition
  - B Rhyme
  - C Hyperbole
  - D Personification
- 6 Which of these suggests that hunting is a solitary endeavour?
- A 'his lone recluse' (line 5)
  - B 'Worrying and praying' (line 11)
  - C 'Far from human abode' (line 18)
  - D 'the jungle gloom' (line 7)
- 7 'Her sour bed' (line 10) evokes the idea that the mother
- A is fretting and fretful.
  - B uses a lot of lime and vinegar in her cooking.
  - C prefers her husband to be hunting at night.
  - D is never contented at home.
- 8 The speaker's tone is BEST described as
- A conversational.
  - B formal.
  - C comical.
  - D ironical.
- 9 The poet uses all of the following EXCEPT
- A end rhyme.
  - B food imagery.
  - C contrast.
  - D free verse.

- 10 The last line is effective because it
- A highlights the irony/contrast between expectation and outcome.
  - B suggests that rats can be eaten on the hunting expedition.
  - C reinforces the idea that the father was never a great hunter.
  - D creates much excitement since the reader was expecting this.

## SECTION B – POETRY

2 Read the following poem carefully and answer ALL the questions that follow.

*Flowers*

I have never learnt the names of flowers.  
 From beginning, my world has been a place  
 Of pot-holed streets where thick, sluggish gutters race  
 In slow time, away from garbage heaps and sewers  
 5 Past blanched old houses around which cowers  
 Stagnant earth. There, scarce green thing grew to chase  
 The dull-grey squalour of sick dust; no trace  
 Of plant save few sparse weeds; just these, no flowers.

One day they cleared a space and made a park  
 10 There in the city's slums; and suddenly  
 Came stark glory like lightning in the dark,  
 While perfume and bright petals thundered slowly.  
 I learnt no names, but hue, shape and scent mark  
 My mind, even now, with symbols holy.

*Dennis Craig*

- a) Briefly describe the setting as presented in the first eight lines of the poem (the octave). (3 marks)
- b) Describe what happens in the last 6 lines of the poem (the 'sestet'). (3 marks)
- c) Identify and comment on the effectiveness of ONE example of contrast. (3 marks)
- d) Give TWO reasons why the title is appropriate. (2 marks)
- e) Discuss the effect of EACH of the following images:  
     '*sluggish gutters race/In slow time*' (lines 3–4)  
     '*While perfume and bright petals thundered slowly*' (line 12) (6 marks)
- f) Identify the following device and comment on its effectiveness:  
     '*and suddenly/Came stark glory like lightning*' (lines 10–11). (3 marks)

[Total 20 marks]