



"There Was A Boy"

- There was a boy; ye knew him well, ye cliffs  
And islands of Winander! - many a time,  
At evening, when the earliest stars began  
To move along the edges of the hills,  
(5) Rising or setting, would he stand alone,  
Beneath the trees, or by the glimmering lake;  
And there, with fingers interwoven, both hands  
Pressed closely palm to palm and to his mouth  
Uplifted, he, as through an instrument,  
(10) Blew mimic hootings to the silent owls,  
That they might answer him,-And they would shout  
Across the watery vale, and shout again,  
Responsive to his call,-with quivering peals,  
And long halloos, and screams, and echoes loud  
(15) Redoubled and redoubled; concourse wild  
Of jocund din! And, when there came a pause  
Of silence such as baffled his best skill:  
Then, sometimes, in that silence, while he hung  
Listening, a gentle shock of mild surprise  
(20) Has carried far into his heart the voice  
Of mountain-torrents; or the visible scene  
Would enter unawares into his mind  
With all its solemn imagery, its rocks,  
Its woods, and that uncertain heaven received  
Into the bosom of the steady lake.
- William Wordsworth

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1. The speaker recounts the experiences of the boy in the poem with
  - A) mock heroic tones
  - B) resentful disdain
  - C) nostalgic
  - D) gently controlled pity
  - E) faint satiric humor
  
2. Which of the following illustrates the rhetorical device of apostrophe?
  - A) "ye knew him well, ye cliffs" (line 1)
  - B) "when the earliest stars began/To move" (lines 3-4)
  - C) "with fingers interwoven" (line 7)
  - D) "they would shout/Across the watery vale" (lines 11-12)
  - E) "the voice/Of mountain- torrents" (lines 20-21)
  
3. The phrase "Rising or setting" (line 5) modifies which of the following?
  - A) "evening" (line 3)
  - B) "stars" (line 3)
  - C) "edges" (line 4)
  - D) "hills" (line 4)
  - E) "he" (line 5)
  
4. As determined by context, which of the following would best fit between "owls" (line 10) and "That" (line 11)?
  - A) until
  - B) in
  - C) when
  - D) so
  - E) if
  
5. Which of the following is the best rendering of the phrase "concourse wild/Of jocund din" (lines 15--16)
  - A) A deafening clatter of wings
  - B) A tumultuous, loud, gleeful noise
  - C) A painful mixture of sharp sounds
  - D) An aggressive, threatening, vocal attack
  - E) A witty and mocking conversation
  
6. The word "din" (line 16) is most strongly reinforced by which of the following pairs of lines?
  - A) 3 and 4
  - B) 5 and 6
  - C) 9 and 10
  - D) 14 and 15
  - E) 20 and 21

7. In context, the word "baffled" (line 17) is best interpreted to mean
- A) defied
  - B) confused
  - C) reflected
  - D) strengthened
  - E) induced
8. The phrase "his best skill" (line 17) is an oblique reference to which of the following?
- A) "To move along the edges" (line 4)
  - B) "would he stand alone" (line 5)
  - C) "with fingers interwoven" (line 7)
  - D) "as through an instrument" (line 9)
  - E) "Blew mimic hootings" (line 10)
9. The heaven is "uncertain" (line 17) in the sense that it
- A) is a reflection that moves
  - B) is of doubtful existence for the speaker
  - C) is a metaphor for fate
  - D) threatens the speaker
  - E) reflects various colors
10. The speaker's experience described in lines 19-25 ("a gentle shock....the steady lake") is best characterized as
- A) a delusion induced by a powerful artist
  - B) a mystical experience resulting from prayer
  - C) a heightened consciousness of the beauty of nature
  - D) an indifference to a force that no longer responds to him
  - E) a growing resentment at his won

#### Answer Key

1) C 2) A 3) B 4) D 5) B 6) D 7) A 8) E 9) A 10) C