

## **D**irections

Read this poem. Then answer questions 22 through 28.

# Twilight Calm

*by Christina Rossetti*

- Oh, pleasant eventide!  
Clouds on the western side  
Grow grey and greyer hiding the warm sun:  
The bees and birds, their happy labours done,  
5 Seek their close nests and bide.
- Screened in the leafy wood  
The stock-doves sit and brood:  
The very squirrel leaps from bough to bough  
But lazily; pauses; and settles now  
10 Where once he stored his food.
- One by one the flowers close,  
Lily and dewy rose  
Shutting their tender petals from the moon:  
The grasshoppers are still; but not so soon  
15 Are still the noisy crows.
- The dormouse squats and eats  
Choice little dainty bits  
Beneath the spreading roots of a broad lime;  
Nibbling his fill he stops from time to time  
20 And listens where he sits.
- From far the lowings come  
Of cattle driven home:  
From farther still the wind brings fitfully  
The vast continual murmur of the sea,  
25 Now loud, now almost dumb.
- The gnats whirl in the air,  
The evening gnats; and there  
The owl opes broad his eyes and wings to sail  
For prey; the bat wakes; and the shell-less snail  
30 Comes forth, clammy and bare.

**GO ON**

Hark! that's the nightingale,  
Telling the selfsame tale  
Her song told when this ancient earth was young:  
So echoes answered when her song was sung  
35 In the first wooded vale.  
We call it love and pain  
The passion of her strain;  
And yet we little understand or know:  
Why should it not be rather joy that so  
40 Throbs in each throbbing vein?  
In separate herds the deer  
Lie; here the bucks, and here  
The does, and by its mother sleeps the fawn:  
Through all the hours of night until the dawn  
45 They sleep, forgetting fear.  
The hare sleeps where it lies,  
With wary half-closed eyes;  
The cock has ceased to crow, the hen to cluck:  
Only the fox is out, some heedless duck  
50 Or chicken to surprise.  
Remote, each single star  
Comes out, till there they are  
All shining brightly: how the dews fall damp!  
While close at hand the glow-worm lights her lamp  
55 Or twinkles from afar.  
But evening now is done  
As much as if the sun  
Day-giving had arisen in the East:  
For night has come; and the great calm has ceased,  
60 The quiet sands have run.

- 22 What does **most** of the poem describe?
- A the sounds of evening
  - B animals preparing for nightfall
  - C creatures hunting for food at night
  - D the way the weather changes at sunset

- 23 Read lines 1 through 3 of the poem.

**Oh, pleasant eventide!  
Clouds on the western side  
Grow grey and greyer hiding the warm sun:**

Which words **best** describe the tone that the poet creates at the beginning of the poem?

- A concern for warmth
  - B surprised alarm at day's end
  - C enthusiasm for the time of day
  - D disapproval of the weather pattern
- 24 Read lines 6 and 7 of the poem. Then read this dictionary entry for "screen."

**screen** *v.* 1. to provide with a means to exclude insects 2. to shelter or conceal from view 3. to separate or sort 4. to use a method to determine suitability for a task

Which definition **best** matches the meaning of "screened" as it is used in lines 6 and 7?

- A definition 1
- B definition 2
- C definition 3
- D definition 4

**GO ON**

25 Which lines provide the **best** evidence that events in nature are repeated over many years?

- A “The very squirrel leaps from bough to bough  
But lazily; pauses; and settles now  
Where once he stored his food.” (lines 8 through 10)
- B “Nibbling his fill he stops from time to time  
And listens where he sits.” (lines 19 and 20)
- C “Hark! that’s the nightingale,  
Telling the selfsame tale  
Her song told when this ancient earth was young:” (lines 31 through 33)
- D “Through all the hours of night until the dawn  
They sleep, forgetting fear.” (lines 44 and 45)

26 Which lines of the poem **best** demonstrate a gradual change that occurs during the evening?

- A lines 11 through 13
- B lines 16 through 20
- C lines 44 and 45
- D lines 54 and 55

27 Which word **best** describes most of the evening activity mentioned in the poem?

- A busy
- B lonely
- C strained
- D cooperative

**28** Which lines **best** show that the night is different from the evening?

- A lines 1 through 5
- B lines 11 through 15
- C lines 26 through 30
- D lines 56 through 60

**GO ON**