



ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and compare your ideas.

- 1 Which is your favourite and least favourite time of the year?
- 2 Which is your favourite and least favourite time of day?
- 3 To what extent do you think the weather affects how we feel?
- 4 Some people prefer the winter to summer. Does this surprise you? Why / Why not?

These are four short poems by the writer Emily Brontë. Emily Brontë is most famous for her novel *Wuthering Heights* but she was also a poet.

- 1 Read the poems. As you read the poems think about this question.

What time of day is it in the poems?

Four poems Emily Brontë

FALL, LEAVES, FALL

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
Lengthen night and shorten day;
Every leaf speaks happiness to me
Falling from the autumn tree.

- 5 I will smile when snow

Blossoms where the rose should grow;
I will sing when night's decay
brings in a darker day.

THE NIGHT IS DARKENING AROUND ME

The night is darkening round me,
The wild winds coldly blow;
But a strange spell has bound me,
And I cannot, cannot go.

- 5 The giant trees are bending

Their branches heavy with snow;
The storm is fast descending,
And yet I cannot go.

Clouds beyond, clouds above me,

- 10 Wastes beyond wastes below;

But nothing dark can move me;
I will not, cannot go.

MILD THE MIST UPON THE HILL

The mist is mild upon the hill
There will be no storms tomorrow;
No, the day has wept its fill,
Spent its silent sorrow.

- 5 O, I'm gone back to the days of youth,

I am a child once more,
And beneath my father's sheltering roof
And near the old hall door
I watch this cloudy evening come

- 10 After a day of rain;

Blue mists, sweet mists of summer on
The horizon's mountain chain.

The damp stands on the long green grass
As thick as morning's tears,

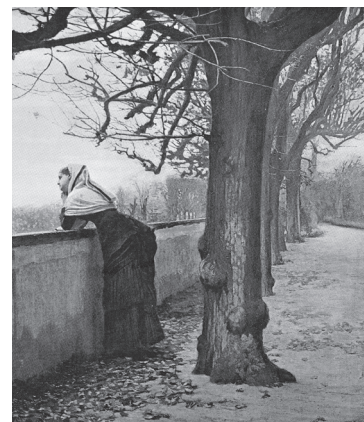
- 15 And dreamy scents of perfume pass
That breathe of other years.

THE SUN HAS SET

The sun has set, and the long grass now
Waves dreamily in the evening wind;
And the wild bird has flown from that old gray stone
In some warm place a bed to find.

- 5 In all the lonely landscape round

I see no light and hear no sound,
Except the wind that far away
Comes sighing over the healthy sea.



GLOSSARY

lengthen	become longer
shorten	become shorter
decay	the process of gradually becoming damaged or being destroyed, often because of natural causes like bacteria or age
darkening	the process of getting darker
wastes	places where nothing grows or lives
wept its fill	cried (wept) as much as it can (its fill)
sorrow	the feeling of being very sad
horizon	the line in the distance where the sky seems to touch the land or sea

2 Read the poems again and answer the questions.

1 Look for examples of repeated words, and repeated sounds in each poem. Why do you think the writer repeats them?

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2 Why do you think the poet says ‘I cannot go’ in *The night is darkening around me*?

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3 Personification means using words to describe things that we usually use to describe people. Can you find any examples of personification in these poems?

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4 Why do you think the poet uses personification?

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VOCABULARY

3 Complete the text with the correct word from the box.

decay horizon sorrow wastes

In the national museum there is a famous painting called ‘The Poet’s ¹ and regret’. The figure is an ancient poet who had to leave his small village to go and work in the city. His village is green and full of trees and flowers but on the ² we can see city ³ These are deserted, dark lands. Whereas the village is a place of life, the distant city seems a place of ⁴

4 Put the letters of the words in brackets in the correct order to complete the sentences.

- 1 After the guests had eaten the band started playing and some people danced. (tehir lifl)
- 2 The sky was and the stars were appearing, bright and silver in the sky. (kendanrig)
- 3 In order to allow students to go home early, the head decided to the school day by 45 minutes. (nethors)
- 4 The council agreed to the bicycle path so that cyclists could go all the way to the coast. (gelhentn)

WRITING

5 A friend on yours in another country has written this email. Write your reply in about 180 words.

✉

Reply

Forward

To:

From:

Subject:

Hi,

How are things? I have to write an essay for my tutor about how the weather influences the way people live in different countries. I’m really interested in the hottest and coldest times of the year in your country, and what leisure activities people do, the clothes people wear and the kind of food they eat depending on the weather. Could you tell me about your country?

Thanks a lot.

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SPEAKING

6 Work in a small group. In the third poem, Brontë talks about how smell reminds her of her father’s house – of her childhood. Discuss the following questions about the senses.

- 1 Which smells remind you of when you were very young?
- 2 Which cooking smells do you like most?
- 3 Which cooking smells do you like least?
- 4 Do you like spicy food?
- 5 Which is your favourite dessert? What does it taste like?
- 6 Do you like loud music or quiet music?
- 7 Do you like bright colours or dark colours?
- 8 Does swimming in the sea feel different from swimming in a pool?