

Read the poem. Then answer the questions that follow.

A Bird Came Down the Walk

“A Bird Came Down the Walk” from *Poems of Emily Dickinson*
by Emily Dickinson, published by Roberts Brothers, 1892.

A Bird came down the walk—
He did not know I saw;
He bit an angleworm in halves
And ate the fellow, raw.

5 And then he drank a dew
 From a convenient grass,
 And then hopped sidewise to the wall
 To let a beetle pass.

10 He glanced with rapid eyes
 That hurried all abroad—
 They looked like frightened beads, I thought—
 He stirred his velvet head—

15 Like one in danger; cautious,
 I offered him a crumb,
 And he unrolled his feathers
 And rowed him softer home

20 Than oars divide the ocean,
 Too silver for a seam,
 Or butterflies, off banks of noon,
 Leap, plashless, as they swim.

Go On

31 Read these lines from the beginning of the poem.

A Bird came down the walk—
He did not know I saw;
He bit an angleworm in halves
And ate the fellow, raw.

Which lines end with words that rhyme?

- A** lines 3 and 4 rhyme
- B** all four lines rhyme
- C** lines 1 and 3 rhyme
- D** lines 2 and 4 rhyme

32 Read the following lines from the third and fourth stanzas of the poem.

He stirred his velvet head—
Like one in danger; cautious,

Now read this dictionary entry.

stir (v) **1.** to move slightly **2.** to be active or busy **3.** to mix together using a circular movement **4.** to awaken strong feelings

Which meaning of “stir” is used in the poem?

- A** meaning 1
- B** meaning 2
- C** meaning 3
- D** meaning 4

- 33** Read these lines from the fourth and fifth stanzas of “A Bird Came Down the Walk.”

And he unrolled his feathers
And rowed him softer home
Than oars divide the ocean,

What is the bird **most likely** doing in these lines?

- A** cleaning his feathers
- B** flying quietly away
- C** swimming away
- D** rowing a boat

- 34** Read these lines from the last stanza of the poem.

Or butterflies, off banks of noon,
Leap, plashless, as they swim.

What does the word “plashless” mean?

- A** like a fish
- B** without a splash
- C** as if flying
- D** with a loud sound

- 35** What feature of “A Bird Came Down the Walk” tells the reader that it is a poem?

- A** It tells a story.
- B** It is about nature.
- C** It is written in stanzas.
- D** It has a bird as a character.

Go On

36 Which detail from the poem supports the idea that humans can enjoy nature but should not bother its creatures?

- A** The bird hops sidewise to let the beetle pass.
- B** The bird doesn't know that the speaker sees it.
- C** The bird leaves when the speaker offers it a crumb.
- D** The bird floats like a butterfly.

37 In the poem, what does the bird drink from?

- A** a piece of grass
- B** a person's hand
- C** a puddle
- D** a river

STOP

Read the passages. Then answer the questions that follow.

Dust Bowl Migration

by William Furman

1 Imagine living through dust storms so fierce that great piles of dust block your front door. Dust blows in through the cracks of your home’s closed doors and windows. It coats every surface with a thick brown film. The dust gets into your nose and throat, making you cough and sneeze.

2 It sounds like life in a hot, lonely desert. But millions of people experienced dust storms like these right here in America. The plains of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico were once covered with fields of wheat and corn. Farmers used every inch of land to plant as much as possible. But in 1931, a great drought hit the United States. The rains that once fed the crops stopped falling. The dry soil of the plains had been so overworked that there was nothing to hold it down when the winds came. It simply blew across the plains, now called the Dust Bowl.

3 Within just one year, there was a great desert in the middle of the United States. Over the next few years, things just got worse. The dust storms came more and more often, and they were making people sick. On a single day in 1935, “Black Sunday,” twenty dust storms struck the Dust Bowl.

4 The country’s new president, Franklin Roosevelt, tried to think of ways to help the people who lived in the Dust Bowl. But nothing could make crops grow in dusty soil without rain. Many people abandoned their homes and land. They set out for the West, looking for new homes and work to do to support their families. Two and a half million migrant people left the Dust Bowl for California, Oregon, Washington, and other states in the 1930s. But not everyone in the Western states was happy to see the newcomers. Some people there called the newcomers “Okies,” since many came from Oklahoma. There were not enough jobs or homes for everyone. At first, many of the migrant people had to live in camps and handmade shelters.

5 In 1941, the United States began to fight in World War II. This meant that the American people would need to build planes, tanks, and weapons for the soldiers to use in the war effort. Although the rains had returned to the Dust Bowl, most of the migrant people stayed in the Western states where there were plenty of jobs to go around.

Go On

These are diary entries written by someone who actually experienced the dust storms in 1934.

from *Dust Bowl Diary*

by Ann Marie Low

April 25, 1934, Wednesday

1 Last weekend was the worst dust storm we ever had. We've been having quite a bit of blowing dirt every year since the drouth¹ started, not only here, but all over the Great Plains. Many days this spring the air is just full of dirt coming, literally, for hundreds of miles. It sifts into everything. After we wash the dishes and put them away, so much dust sifts into the cupboards we must wash them again before the next meal. Clothes in the closets are covered with dust.

2 Last weekend no one was taking an automobile out for fear of ruining the motor. I rode Roany to Frank's place to return a gear. To find my way I had to ride right beside the fence, scarcely able to see from one fence post to the next.

3 Newspapers say the deaths of many babies and old people are attributed to breathing in so much dirt.

July 6, 1934, Friday

4 I am still herding cows, and it is awfully hot. Where they have eaten every weed and blade of grain, Bud is plowing so the ground will be softened to absorb rain (if it comes). He is very fed up and anxious to get away to school and fit himself for a job.

5 Poor Bud. He has worked so hard and saved so hard. He has done without nice clothes and never went to a dance or movie oftener than about once a year because he was saving every penny for college. He hoped his livestock would pay his way for four years. The price was so low he didn't sell any last year. This year they are worth less, and he absolutely must sell them because there is not enough feed for them and no money to buy feed. All the stock he has won't pay his way through one year of college.

6 Grover has already had to ship out more cattle. He wanted me to help him. Roany and I got to Grandma's by 4:30 A.M. We got the cattle to the stockyards in Pingree by 10:00. Then back to herd cows on the wheat field again.

¹ **drouth:** drought

38 According to “Dust Bowl Migration,” what was life like for many people who left their homes in the Dust Bowl and moved to the West? Use **two** details from the passage to support your answer.

Write your answer in complete sentences.

39 According to “Dust Bowl Migration,” what caused the great dust storms in the Dust Bowl? Use **two** details from the passage to support your answer.

Write your answer in complete sentences.

Go On

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In *Dust Bowl Diary*, who is Roany? Use **two** details from the passage to support your answer.

Write your answer in complete sentences.

Planning Page

You may PLAN your writing for question 41 here if you wish, but do NOT write your final answer on this page. Write your final answer on pages 30 and 31.



Go On

