

Name: _____

Poetry Worksheet – The Village Blacksmith

Read the following poems. Then answer the following questions.

THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH BY HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

Under a spreading chestnut-tree
The village smithy stands;
The smith, a mighty man is he,
With large and sinewy hands;
And the muscles of his brawny arms
Are strong as iron bands.

His hair is crisp, and black, and long,
His face is like the tan;
His brow is wet with honest sweat,
He earns whate'er he can,
And looks the whole world in the face,
For he owes not any man.

Week in, week out, from morn till night,
You can hear his bellows blow;
You can hear him swing his heavy sledge,
With measured beat and slow,
Like a sexton ringing the village bell,
When the evening sun is low.

And children coming home from school
Look in at the open door;
They love to see the flaming forge,
And hear the bellows roar,
And catch the burning sparks that fly
Like chaff from a threshing-floor.

He goes on Sunday to the church,
And sits among his boys;
He hears the parson pray and preach,
He hears his daughter's voice,
Singing in the village choir,
And it makes his heart rejoice.

It sounds to him like her mother's voice,
Singing in Paradise!
He needs must think of her once more,
How in the grave she lies;
And with his hard, rough hand he wipes
A tear out of his eyes.

Toiling,–rejoicing,–sorrowing,
Onward through life he goes;
Each morning sees some task begin,
Each evening sees it close
Something attempted, something done,
Has earned a night's repose.

Thanks, thanks to thee, my worthy friend,
For the lesson thou hast taught!
Thus at the flaming forge of life
Our fortunes must be wrought;
Thus on its sounding anvil shaped
Each burning deed and thought.

Questions

Name: _____

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1. What type of poem is “The Village Blacksmith“?

- a. Lyrical Poems
- b. Free Verse Poem
- c. Much like a ballad
- d. Eight-Stanza Limerick poem

2. What is the rhyming scheme for the first stanza of this poem?

3. What is the main idea for this poem?

- a. A blacksmith is hardworking.
- b. It takes a strong man to be a blacksmith.
- c. Life as a common working man amid trials and tragedies.
- d. A blacksmith has many qualities.

4. Where does the blacksmith works?

5. What are the three physical characteristics of the blacksmith mentioned in the poem?

6. How do you know the blacksmith is an honest man?

Name: _____

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7. What figure of speech is shown in this line: “*as strong as iron bands*”(stanza 1)?

assonance

personification

metaphor

simile

8. How do you know the blacksmith is hardworking? Where in the poem tells you this?

9. What excites the children when they see the blacksmith?

10. Which line from the poem tells us that the blacksmith is a widower?

11. Select from the options below the things a blacksmith would make?

couch

swords

books

horseshoes

door

axes

door handle

bags and purses

Name: _____

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12. What makes the poem an inspirational poem?
