



Someone

by Walter de la Mare

Someone came knocking ¹
At my wee, small door;
Someone came knocking, ³
I'm sure — sure — sure;
I listened, I opened, ⁵
I looked to left and right,
But nought there was a-stirring ⁷
In the still, dark night;
Only the busy beetle ⁹
Tap-tapping in the wall,
Only from the forest ¹¹
The screech owl's call,
Only the cricket whistling ¹³
While the dewdrops fall,
So I know not who came knocking, ¹⁵
At all, at all, at all.

Section 1: Complete the following summary of the poem with suitable words from the help box.

List: captivating, elusive, existence, identity, lurking, ponders, unanswered

Walter de la Mare's poem "*Someone*" is a _____ piece that delves into the mystery of _____ and _____. The poem's narrator _____ over the concept of someone who may be _____ in the shadows, someone with an _____ presence that cannot be fully grasped. In the end, the poem leaves the reader with _____ questions.

Section 2: Literal questions:

1. What did the speaker of the poem hear?
2. When did he hear it?
3. Name three animals mentioned in the poem.

Section 3:

Select one answer for the following questions.

1. The poem "*someone*" makes the reader feel:
 - a. Uneasy and curious
 - b. Sad and concerned
 - c. Surprised and curious
 - d. Happy and mesmerized

2. Why does the poet use much vivid imagery and descriptive language in the poem?
 - a. To sound mysterious
 - b. To leave the reader confused
 - c. To entertain the reader.
 - d. To create a sense of ambiguity and uncertainty

3. What is the main purpose of the poem?
 - a. The poet wants to make us feel confused.
 - b. The poet wants to explore the confusing nature of human existence.
 - c. The poet yearns to make a new friend.
 - d. The poet wants us to identify the creatures in nature.

Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Use the poem to support your answer.

4. What do the following words mean?
 - a. nought
 - b. dewdrops

5. What happens in the beginning of the poem?
6. Why does the speaker repeats in lines 4: "I'm sure - sure - sure"
7. How does the speaker of the poems respond to the knocking on the door?
8. What did the speaker find when he went outside?
9. Was there really a person knocking on the door?
10. Who do you think was the "Someone" according to the poem?
11. How does the poet leave the reader?

Section 4: Discussion questions

12. Have you ever experience something like this?
13. Do you like this poem? Why or why not?