

POEM-9 | Refugee Blues

QUIZ-01

1. What poetic form is used in "Refugee Blues"?

- A. Ode
B. Ballad
C. Sonnet
D. Free verse (B)

Explanation: Although modern, the poem uses the traditional ballad form for its narrative and repetitive rhythm.

2. What does the phrase "old passports can't do that" imply?

- A. Passports are renewable each year
B. Only plants can grow again
C. Passports don't get a second life like nature
D. Passport offices are unreliable (C)

Explanation: The line contrasts the renewal of nature with the lifelessness and finality of old passports.

3. Who is "he" in the line "He was talking of you and me"?

- A. A police officer
B. A speaker at a public meeting
C. A customs official
D. A neighbor (B)

Explanation: The poem describes a public speaker warning that refugees would "steal our daily bread," revealing prejudice.

4. What emotion is reinforced by the title "Refugee Blues"?

- A. Anger
B. Celebration
C. Sadness
D. Surprise (C)

Explanation: The word "Blues" conveys melancholy, aligning with the despair of refugees.

5. What is contrasted with the freedom of fish and birds?

- A. War and peace
B. The narrator's lack of money
C. The refugees' lack of freedom
D. The beauty of nature (C)

Explanation: The poem shows animals living freely while humans are restricted by politics and borders.

6. What does the phrase "two tickets to Happiness" symbolize?

- A. A holiday
B. A journey to a safe country
C. A train ride
D. A reunion with family (B)

Explanation: It represents the desire for escape and safety, which is denied to the refugees.

7. How does the poet portray political leaders?

- A. Compassionate
B. Indifferent
C. Heroic
D. Friendly (B)

Explanation: The poet criticizes leaders for their lack of empathy and bureaucratic responses to suffering.

8. Why is the poet's reference to a cat being let in significant?

- A. It shows cats are lucky
B. It mocks the cat
C. It highlights irony—animals are welcomed, humans are not
D. It describes a pet-friendly city (C)

Explanation: The line illustrates the cruel irony that animals receive hospitality while refugees are denied it.

9. What is the effect of repeating the phrase "my dear" throughout the poem?

- A. It adds humor
B. It creates a formal tone
C. It emphasizes intimacy and shared pain
D. It refers to the poet's child (C)

Explanation: The refrain "my dear" reinforces emotional closeness and a shared sense of loss.

10. What does the poem imply by saying "you're officially dead" if one has no passport?

- A. Passports are expensive
B. Officials exaggerate rules
C. Without a passport, one loses legal identity
D. Refugees must apply for citizenship (C)

Explanation: The line underlines how bureaucracy strips refugees of legal existence, rendering them invisible and powerless.