Poetry

*Choose one poem to respond to. Read it several times before attempting to answer the questions.*

‘Shooting Stars’ by Carol Ann Duffy

1. What is your immediate response to the poem?
2. The poem is written in first person to make it intensely personal. T/F
3. What does the list of the names in the first stanza represent?
4. List some of the cruelties the soldiers practised on the Jews.
5. Why does the speaker in the poem ask, “How would you prepare to die?”
6. What is the effect of the repetition of “After…After…After” in the fifth stanza?
7. “My bowels opened in a ragged gape of fear” is an example of a) metaphor b) simile c) alliteration d) simile to convey the violence of the rape.
8. The onomatopoeia of ‘tricked’, ‘click’, ‘trick’ creates suspense. T/F
9. “Remember, remember” – to whom are these words addressed?
10. The ‘spades shovel soil Sarah Ezra”. How does the poem continue (or extend) ideas from the first stanza? Why is alliteration of the s sounds used?
11. The last stanza is like a psalm from the Bible. Skim read Psalm 137. Do you agree?
12. Which of the following words do you think best describes the way we should treat other people: tolerance, respect, compassion or love.
13. Which of the following words do you think best describes the way the Biblical view of how we should treat other people: tolerance, respect, compassion or love.

Extension questions: How do the opening and closing lines frame the poem?

How is the passage of time conveyed in the poem?

Poetry

*Choose one poem to respond to. Read it several times before attempting to answer the questions. Make sure you view the photo that the poem was written about before you begin.*

‘Little Polish Boy Standing With His Hands Up’ by Peter Fischl.

1. What is your immediate response to the poem?
2. The poet mentions a range of things he’d like to be and also that he’d like to create. List them.

He’d like to be He’d like to create

1. Explain why these creations are so large. Give an example of their size from the poem.
2. Why is the phrase, “and the world who said nothing” repeated so often?
3. There are several groups in genocide: perpetrators, victims, bystanders and rescuers. Identify which of these groups are mentioned in the poem.
4. What is the effect of writing the poem in first person?
5. Why is the length of the lines changed in the last stanza?
6. The poem moves from mid modality – “I would” to high modality, “I will”. Why has Peter Fischl decided to do that?
7. If the poem were a colour what would it be? Explain why you chose this colour.
8. In what ways does this poem position us to think like the graphic novel ‘Magneto Testament’?
9. Are there hate groups today? How do they spread their ideas? (eg in social media, songs?)
10. Which of the following words do you think best describes the way we should treat other people: tolerance, respect, compassion or love.
11. Which of the following words do you think best describes the way the Biblical view of how we should treat other people: tolerance, respect, compassion or love.