

Name - _____

Start time - __ : __

End time - __ : __

Read the following poem carefully and answer the questions that follow.

A Poem by Tennyson

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

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Questions:

1. What is the speaker asking the bells to do, and why?
2. Identify and explain three poetic devices used in the poem (e.g., metaphor, symbolism, alliteration). How do these devices enhance the poem's meaning?
3. Discuss the symbolism of the bells in the poem. What might they represent?
4. Identify instances of imagery in the poem. How do these images create a vivid picture in the reader's mind?
5. How does the mood of the poem change as different aspects of life are addressed? Describe the emotions the poem conveys to the reader.
6. Analyze the symbolism of ringing out the old and ringing in the new. What might these phrases symbolize in the context of the poem?
7. How do you personally interpret the message of the poem, especially regarding the transition from the old year to the new year?