

Name - _____

Start time - __ : __

End time - __ : __

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

The Lapwing

In the dark that falls before the dawn,
When the dew has settled on the thorn,
When the stars have been obscured by clouds,
A silence covers all things in shrouds.
No wind sighs in the mulberry tree,
No firefly glimmers wild and free,
A shadow has wrapped the night in gloom,
It's silent as a deserted tomb.

All of a sudden a lapwing's cry
Cuts the black silence as it flies by,
Again and again it slashes the dark
That haunts the empty, desolate park.

Anguish, sorrow pours from its throat,
It wings in the night, note after note;
I open my window so the light
Will flood the dark of this wretched night
. Why does it cry so miserably?
Why is it so solitary?
All I know is that loss and ache
Are left behind in the lapwing's wake.

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Questions:

1. Describe the scene depicted in the poem. What is happening in the darkness before dawn?
2. Comment on the use of personification in the poem. How does it enhance the reader's connection to the emotions expressed?
3. Identify three poetic devices used in the poem (e.g., metaphor, imagery, symbolism). Explain how each device contributes to the poem's meaning.
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 throughout? Describe the emotions the poem evokes in the reader.
6. Analyze the symbolism of the lapwing in the poem. What might it represent or symbolize?
7. How do you personally relate to the feelings of loss and anguish expressed in the poem?
8. Why do you think the poet chose a lapwing as a central element in this poem? What might be the cultural or literary significance of this choice?