

Name - _____

Start time - __ : __

End time - __ : __

Read the following passage from a 19th-century novel and answer the questions that follow.

Excerpt: From "David Copperfield" by Charles Dickens

"Of my school-days, I recall one happy afternoon that seemed an hour when it was over, and years when I thought of it. I received a short note that day from Mr. Peggotty, acquainting me with his niece's loss, adding that there was nothing wanting to complete the circle of happiness which his marriage had begun, but this drawback. 'If she don't come back to us, sir,' said Mr. Peggotty, 'I'm afraid she'll never know her danger. And it's time she was under articles to a honest man.'

The image of Em'ly rising out of her adversity, and mingling with the birds; the real delight of that one morning; the immovable beauty of the face that had looked up to the heavens from among the bulrushes; the attachable grace that had dropped out of the clouds on the bosom of the budding flower; the lightness, fragrance, and freshness of her young spirit, which had passed away from it and about it, like the airy gossamer of the summer; all impressed me, as I looked along the path towards the house, like a beautiful waste dream, wherein I thought I saw her, at one moment a child again, and then at another, a woman; a grave and stately woman too, young and silently observant always, but very happy and light of heart."

Questions:

1. Consider the narrator's perspective and emotions in this passage. How does David Copperfield perceive Em'ly's presence and her significance in his life? What emotions does he experience as he reminisces about her?

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

Name - _____

Start time - __ : __

End time - __ : __

2. Reflect on the transformation of Em'ly as depicted in the passage. How has she evolved from her earlier adversities? What qualities and virtues are emphasized in her character, and how do these contribute to the reader's understanding of her?
3. Analyze the imagery of nature and innocence in the passage. How does the description of Em'ly in natural surroundings symbolize her character and journey? What deeper meanings might be attached to the image of her mingling with birds and flowers?
4. Explore the themes of resilience and redemption as portrayed through Em'ly's character. How does her ability to rise above adversity and find happiness reflect these themes? In what ways does her story offer hope and inspiration?
5. Reflect on the relationships between Em'ly and other characters, such as Mr. Peggotty and David Copperfield. How do these relationships shape her character development? How do other characters perceive her, and how does this perception influence her sense of identity?
6. Reflect on your own response to the passage. How does Dickens' portrayal of Em'ly resonate with contemporary readers? Why do you think this passage continues to be powerful and relevant, transcending its historical context?