

This poem tells what it is like to be a cloud. Read the selection below. Then read each question and choose the best answer. Use the provided answer sheet at the end of the workbook to record your answers.

from **The Cloud**

by Percy Bysshe Shelley

I bring fresh showers for the thirsting flowers,
From the seas and the streams;
I bear light shade for the leaves when laid
In their noonday dreams.
From my wings are shaken the dews that waken
The sweet buds every one,
When rocked to rest on their mother's breast,
As she dances about the sun.
I wield the flail¹ of the lashing hail,
And whiten the green plains under;
And then again I dissolve it in rain,
And laugh as I pass in thunder.

1. flail: a tool with a free-swinging stick

from **The Cloud**

1. Based on information in the selection, who is speaking?
 - A a poet
 - B a cloud
 - C a bird
 - D a flower
2. Which of the speaker's actions is **most** human?
 - A bringing fresh showers
 - B whitening the green plains
 - C dissolving
 - D laughing
3. What does it mean to "whiten the green plains under" from line 10?
 - A bleach out grass stains
 - B get darker in the sun
 - C confess a lie
 - D cover with snow or hail
4. What is the speaker's mood at the end of the poem?
 - A cheerful
 - B depressed
 - C discontented
 - D sour
5. To which sense does the last line of the poem appeal?
 - A touch
 - B smell
 - C sight
 - D hearing
6. Based on the selection, which word **best** describes the cloud in the poem?
 - A nurturing
 - B afraid
 - C evil
 - D playful

7. How do lines 3–4 use personification?
- A They describe the speaker as happy.
 - B They describe the speaker carrying a torch.
 - C They describe leaves as dreaming.
 - D They describe the leaves as carrying a sun-shade.
8. Based on the context of line 9, the word *wield* means “hold.” What context clue helps tell its meaning.
- A The cloud talks about “bearing light shade,” which must be carried.
 - B The cloud talks about having “wings,” which are a form of arms.
 - C The cloud talks about “rocking” buds, which must be cradled in arms.
 - D The cloud talks about “wield[ing] the flail,” which must be held in order to use the tool.