

Find out how the speaker feels about spring. 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.

May Day

by Sara Teasdale

A delicate fabric of bird song
Floats in the air,
The smell of wet wild earth
Is everywhere.

Red small leaves of the maple
Are clenched like a hand,
Like girls at their first communion¹
The pear trees stand.

Oh I must pass nothing by
Without loving it much,
The raindrop try with my lips,
The grass at my touch;

For how can I be sure
I shall see again
The world on the first of May
Shining after the rain?

1. **first communion:** a ceremony in which a young person takes his or first step toward becoming an active member of the church

May Day

1. What does the simile in lines 5–6 describe?
 - A children holding leaves in their hands
 - B the way that buds look on a maple tree
 - C a painting of a maple tree
 - D the crinkled red leaves in the fall

2. According to the selection, what does the speaker taste in order to experience it?
 - A a blade of grass
 - B a maple leaf
 - C the rain
 - D the wet soil

3. Why does the speaker compare the pear trees with girls in church?
 - A to reinforce the idea of the shortness of life
 - B to show the connection between religion and church
 - C to reinforce the innocence and beauty of nature
 - D to show the connection between nature and power

4. Which of these groups of words from the poem helps create a sense of the gentleness of nature?
 - A delicate fabric; floats
 - B clenched; stand
 - C must pass
 - D see again

5. Which of the following *best* describes the speaker's emotion in the poem's third stanza?
 - A delight
 - B longing
 - C sadness
 - D anger

6. What is the rhyme scheme of this poem?
 - A abcc
 - B abcd
 - C abab
 - D abcb

May Day

7. What sounds does the speaker hear?
- A leaves rustling in the wind
 - B birds chirping
 - C girls giggling
 - D church bells ringing
8. Which statement *best* summarizes the theme of the poem?
- A Be sure to experience nature after a rainstorm.
 - B Life is short and uncertain, so enjoy each day.
 - C The earth smells fresh after a rain.
 - D Sometimes trees look like young girls at church.