

HAST SAMPLE READING QUESTION PAPER – JUNIOR YR 7

Read the poem and answer the following questions by choosing the correct option:

Keeping Quiet

By Pablo Neruda

Now we will count to twelve

and we will all keep still.

For once on the face of the Earth

let's not speak in any language,

let's stop for one second,

and not move our arms so much.

It would be an exotic moment

without rush, without engines,

we would all be together

in a sudden strangeness.

Fishermen in the cold sea

would not harm whales

and the man gathering salt

would look at his hurt hands.

Those who prepare green wars,

wars with gas, wars with fire,

victory with no survivors,

would put on clean clothes

and walk about with their

brothers

in the shade, doing nothing.

What I want should not be

confused

with total inactivity.

Life is what it is about;

I want no truck with death.

If we were not so single-minded

about keeping our lives moving,

and for once could do nothing,

perhaps a huge silence

might interrupt this sadness

of never understanding ourselves

and of threatening ourselves with

death.

Perhaps the Earth can teach us

as when everything seems dead

and later proves to be alive.

Now I'll count up to twelve

and you keep quiet and I will go.

1. The poet uses conversational style and personal pronouns as 'you', 'we' and 'I' because

- (a) he wants to be intimate with mankind
- (b) he tries to read out to the readers
- (c) he wants to establish contact easily
- (d) third person is ineffective

2. 'Cold sea' is a ____ poetic device.

- (a) personification
- (b) transferred epithet
- (c) metaphor
- (d) alliteration

3. Without rush, without engines' refers to

- (a) no noise
- (b) no hurry to go to the office

- (c) no travelling
- (d) no holidaying

4. 'Have no truck with death' means

- (a) will not die of the truck accident
- (b) remove poverty and illiteracy
- (c) have no association or deal with death
- (d) will not drive a truck

5. What symbol from nature does the poet use to prove that keeping quiet is not total inactivity?

- (a) Sun
- (b) Soil
- (c) earth
- (d) Nature and earth

6. Not move our arms' what does this expression refer to?

- (a) sit quietly
- (b) stand quietly
- (c) to be inactive
- (d) sitting still without any movement

selectivetrials.com.au

