



Year 6 SATs Reading Paper - Poetry

Read the poem and answer the questions.



Read this poem:

The Moonlight Path

The moonlight paints a silver trail

Along the river wide,

Where willows sway and owls sail

In darkness they do hide.

The fox steps light on softened grass,

Its shadow dancing near,

While breeze and breeze in silence pass,

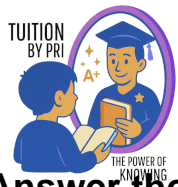
No sound for us to hear.

The stars above begin to blink,

As night begins to yawn,

And morning waits along the brink,

To chase away the dawn.



Answer the questions below:

1. What time of day is described in the poem?
2. Find two animals mentioned in the poem.
3. Why do you think the poet uses the phrase 'moonlight paints a silver trail'?
4. What is the effect of 'owls sail in darkness they do hide'?
5. Which sense is appealed to in 'No sound for us to hear'?
6. What does the poet suggest is happening in the final stanza?
7. Number the lines in the order they describe the fox, the stars, and the moonlight.
8. Which of these best describes the mood of the poem?
 - a) Exciting
 - b) Peaceful
 - c) Frightening
 - d) Busy
9. How does the poet use nature to describe the setting?
10. What do you think the poem is trying to show about nighttime?



Answers (For Teachers or Self-Marking):

1. Nighttime.
2. Fox and owl.
3. It describes how moonlight reflects on the river, making it look magical or glowing.
4. It shows the mysterious and hidden nature of owls at night.
5. Hearing (sense of sound).
6. The stars come out and morning is about to begin.
7. Order: (1) Moonlight, (2) Fox, (3) Stars.
8. b) Peaceful
9. By describing willows, rivers, owls, foxes, and stars in a gentle, quiet way.
10. That night is calm, magical, and full of quiet life.