

Name: _____ Class: _____

The Clock Man

By Shel Silverstein
2011

Sheldon Allan "Shel" Silverstein (1930-1999) was an American poet, cartoonist, screenwriter, and author of children's books. In the following a poem, a child has a conversation with the clock man. As you read, take notes on how the person in the poem reacts to and feels about time.

- [1] "How much will you pay for an extra day?"
The clock man asked the child.
"Not one penny," the answer came,
"For my days are as many as smiles."
- [5] "How much will you pay for an extra day?"
He asked when the child was grown.
"Maybe a dollar or maybe less,
For I've plenty of days of my own."
- "How much will you pay for an extra day?"
[10] He asked when the time came to die.
"All of the pearls in all of the seas,
And all of the stars in the sky."



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Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which of the following best describes the theme of the poem? [RL.2]
 - A. People care about time more as they get older.
 - B. Children often feel like they will never get old.
 - C. There's nothing more important to people than staying young.
 - D. People are afraid of death their entire lives.

2. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A? [RL.1]
 - A. "For my days are as many as smiles." (Line 4)
 - B. "How much will you pay for an extra day?" (Line 5)
 - C. "He asked when the time came to die." (Line 10)
 - D. "All of the pearls in all of the seas" (Line 11)

3. What does the clock man represent in the poem? [RL.3]
 - A. death
 - B. living forever
 - C. time
 - D. money

4. How do the person's feelings about time change throughout the poem? [RL.3]
 - A. He values time more than he did as a child.
 - B. He grows more negative about time as he ages.
 - C. He is satisfied with the time he has left.
 - D. He feels angry that he cannot buy any more time.

5. How does the quote "Not one penny," the answer came, / "For my days are as many as smiles" (Lines 3-4) contribute to the overall theme of the poem? [RL.5]
