

Hello, all,

In my absence on Monday, please complete The Caterpillar (see below) passage and questions for a CLASSWORK grade. I uploaded the questions on Google Forms, so don't forget to put in your answers!

Google Forms link: <https://forms.gle/mbwkgWXfge6ijvUSA>

See you Tuesday!

Ms. Rosales :)

## BACKGROUND

**Robert Graves** (1895–1985) was a British poet and novelist. The son of an Irish poet, Graves started writing poetry as a teenager. At 19, he enlisted as an officer in World War I. He became known as a “war poet” for his realistic poetry about the war. Graves published 55 collections of poetry. “The Caterpillar” is one of his early poems.



## SETTING A PURPOSE

*Consider why the poet chose to write about a caterpillar. What might Graves have learned by seeing the world through the eyes of this particular creature?*

Under this loop of honeysuckle,  
A creeping, coloured caterpillar,  
I gnaw the fresh green hawthorn spray,  
I nibble it leaf by leaf away.

5 Down beneath grow dandelions,  
Daisies, old-man’s-looking-glasses;  
Rooks flap croaking across the lane.  
I eat and swallow and eat again.

Here come raindrops helter-skelter;  
10 I munch and nibble unregarding:  
Hawthorn leaves are juicy and firm.  
I’ll mind my business: I’m a good worm.

**3 hawthorn spray:** a small branch of a hawthorn tree.

**7 rook:** large, black bird in the crow family.

## NOTICE & NOTE



When I’m old, tired, melancholy,  
I’ll build a leaf-green mausoleum  
15 Close by, here on this lovely spray,  
And die and dream the ages away.

Some say worms win resurrection,  
With white wings beating flitter-flutter,  
But wings or a sound sleep, why should I care?  
20 Either way I’ll miss my share.

Under this loop of honeysuckle,  
A hungry, hairy caterpillar,  
I crawl on my high and swinging seat,  
And eat, eat, eat — as one ought to eat.

**13 melancholy:** sad; pensive.

**14 mausoleum:** a building that holds tombs for the dead.

**17 resurrection:** the condition of being restored to life.

**1** The poet's use of sensory language in line 7 is intended to help the reader —

- A** imagine the sound made by a rook's wings
  - B** visualize how a rook crosses a lane
  - C** understand what a rook does to move
  - D** see a rook near the dandelions
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**2** Which statement describes the use of meter and line breaks in the poem?

- F** They change as the caterpillar mentions its transformation.
  - G** They change as the caterpillar becomes more excited throughout the poem.
  - H** They match the caterpillar's steady actions and tone.
  - J** They accentuate the dramatic effects and climax of the poem.
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**3** Which word does the poet use to describe what a caterpillar covers itself with as it transforms into a butterfly?

- A** Hawthorn
  - B** Honeysuckle
  - C** Melancholy
  - D** Mausoleum
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**4** What does the caterpillar mean at the end of line 12? Explain why the caterpillar considers itself to be "good."

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5 What can you infer about the caterpillar from the fifth stanza of the poem?

- A The caterpillar is excited about the future.
  - B The caterpillar does not think about the future.
  - C The caterpillar is afraid of the future.
  - D The caterpillar does not think it will become a butterfly in the future.
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6 From the speaker's experience, the reader can learn that —

- F many types of creatures hide under leaves
  - G caterpillars focus on eating leaves to grow
  - H older animals are too tired and sad to eat
  - J an animal's surroundings affect its eating habits
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7 For which **two** reasons does the author use imagery and figurative language throughout the poem?

- A To provide facts about a caterpillar's diet
  - B To share events from the life of a caterpillar
  - C To explain how a caterpillar moves on the ground
  - D To describe surroundings from a caterpillar's perspective
  - E To compare and contrast a caterpillar and worm
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8 Create a summary of "The Caterpillar." Label the events in the order in which they happened. The first event will be labeled 1, and the last will be labeled 5.

- \_\_\_ The caterpillar dreams about becoming a butterfly.
- \_\_\_ The caterpillar sits under honeysuckle and eats.
- \_\_\_ The caterpillar sees and hears birds flying.
- \_\_\_ The caterpillar starts to feel rain as it eats.
- \_\_\_ The caterpillar continues to sit under honeysuckle and eat.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Selection  
Test**

**9** Which line from the poem best suggests that the caterpillar is satisfied with its current life situation?

- A** Line 4
- B** Line 16
- C** Line 20
- D** Line 24

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**10** Does the caterpillar undergo a transformation during the poem? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

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