

NAME: _____
DATE: _____

Sick By Shel Silverstein

"I cannot go to school today,"
Said little Peggy Ann McKay.
"I have the measles and the mumps,
A gash, a rash, and purple bumps.
My mouth is wet, my throat is dry,
I'm going blind in my right eye.
My tonsils are as big as rocks,
I've counted sixteen chicken pox

And there's one more – that's seventeen,
And don't you think my face looks green?
My leg is cut, my eyes are blue -
It might be instamatic flu.
I cough and sneeze and gasp and choke,
I'm sure that my left leg is broke -
My hips hurt when I move my chin,
My belly button is caving in



My back is wrenched, my ankle's sprained,
My 'pendix pains each time it rains.
My nose is cold, my toes are numb,
have a sliver in my thumb.
My neck is stiff, my voice is weak,
I hardly whisper when I speak.
My tongue is filling up my mouth,
I think my hair is falling out.

My elbow is bent, my spine isn't straight,
My temperature is one-o-eight.
My brain is shrunk, I cannot hear,
There is a hole inside my ear.
I have a hangnail, and my heart is – what?
What's that? What's that you say?
You say today is...Saturday?
G'bye, I'm going out to play!"

1. Which word is a synonym for wrenched? (*context clues*)

- (A) fixed
- (B) injured
- (C) not painful
- (D) straight

2. Read line 26. What is the speaker trying to say? (*Inference = clues in text + your knowledge*)

- (A) The speaker is sick with a high fever.
- (B) The speaker needs medicine to get better soon.
- (C) The speaker wants to go to school.

3. After reading the last stanza, the reader can conclude - (*Inference / Draw Conclusions*)

- (A) The speaker does not feel well and needs medicine.
- (B) The speaker was pretending to be sick in order to miss a day of school.
- (C) The speaker is happy to miss a day of school.
- (D) The speaker is starting to feel sick and has to miss school.

4. What does the speaker realize at the end of the poem? (*Inference - Sequence*)

- (A) The speaker realized that there was no school that day.
- (B) The speaker realized that his back and feet were hurting.
- (C) The speaker was pretending to be sick when he actually was really sick.
- (D) The speaker will get into a lot of trouble for lying.

5. Read line 7. This is an example of - (*Inference - Sequence*)

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (A) Metaphor | (B) Alliteration |
| (C) Onomatopoeia | (D) Simile |

6. Which line from the poem shows imagery? (*Imagery / Sensory Details*)

- (A) Line 30
- (B) Line 33
- (C) Line 1
- (D) Line 7

7. The reader can conclude that the main character - (*Character Analysis*)

- (A) Dislikes getting sick and staying in bed all day
- (B) Does not want to miss school
- (C) Enjoys going to school and learning
- (D) Does not enjoy going to school and wants to stay home

8. The poet wrote this poem - (*Author's Purpose*)

- (A) to entertain the reader with a nonfiction poem
- (B) to entertain the reader with a humorous poem
- (C) to entertain the reader with a free verse poem
- (D) to entertain the reader with a limerick poem

9. Which of the following is true about this poem?

- (A) The poem has ABAB rhyme pattern.
- (B) The poem is a free verse poem.
- (C) The poem has 4 stanzas and 32 lines.
- (D) The poem has 32 stanzas and 4 lines.

10. Circle your answer. This poem is:

fiction

nonfiction

ANSWER KEY – SICK

1	B	Synonym/Antonym
2	A	Inference
3	B	Draw Conclusions
4	A	Inference
5	D	Figurative Language
6	D	Imagery
7	D	Draw Conclusions
8	B	Author's Purpose
9	C	Elements of Poetry
10	Fiction	Fiction / Nonfiction