

Closely read the passage below. Then select the best answer to each

View with a Grain of Sand

We call it a grain of sand
but it calls itself neither grain nor sand.
It does just fine without a name,
whether general, particular,
5 permanent, passing,
incorrect or apt.

Our glance, our touch mean nothing to it.
It doesn't feel itself seen and touched.
And that it fell on the windowsill
10 is only our experience, not its.
For it it's no different than falling on anything else
with no assurance that it's finished falling
or that it's falling still.

The window has a wonderful view of a lake
15 but the view doesn't view itself.
It exists in this world
colorless, shapeless,
soundless, odorless, and painless.

The lake's floor exists floorlessly
20 and its shore exists shorelessly.
Its water feels itself neither wet nor dry
and its waves to themselves are neither singular nor plural.
They splash deaf to their own noise
on pebbles neither large nor small.

25 And all this beneath a sky by nature skyless
in which the sun sets without setting at all
and hides without hiding behind an unminding cloud.
The wind ruffles it, its only reason being
that it blows.

30 A second passes.
A second second.
A third.
But they're three seconds only for us.

Time has passed like a courier with urgent news.
35 But that's just our simile.
The character's invented, his haste is make-believe,
his news inhuman.

—Wisława Szymborska
from *Polish Poetry of the Last Two Decades of Communist Rule*,
translated by Stanisław Barańczak and Clare Cavanagh
Northwestern University Press, 1991

10 The statement “Our glance, our touch mean nothing to it” (line 7) helps to establish the concept of

13 The inclusion of the figurative language in the final stanza serves to

- ① human resentment of the natural order
- ② nature's superiority
- ③ human control over the environment
- ④ nature's indifference

11 The purpose of lines 14 through 18 is to present

- ① a contrast with human reliance on the senses
- ② a focus on the complexity of natural events
- ③ an emphasis on human need for physical beauty
- ④ an appreciation for the role of nature in everyday life

12 Lines 30 through 33 contribute to the poem's meaning by

- ① questioning the finality of death
- ② commenting on human perception
- ③ revealing the power of anticipation
- ④ describing an unusual phenomenon

14 The poem is developed primarily through the use of which two techniques?

- examples of occurrences in
 - exaggérations of nature's effects on
 - cause and effect of nature on the
 - explanations of nature's inattention to
 - questions that people have about
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