

Sonnet 64

When I have seen by Time's fell hand defac'd
The rich proud cost of outworn buried age;
When sometime lofty towers I see down-ras'd
And brass eternal slave to mortal rage;
When I have seen the hungry ocean gain
Advantage on the kingdom of the shore,
And the firm soil win of the wat'ry main,
Increasing store with loss and loss with store;
When I have seen such interchange of state,
Or state itself confounded to decay;
Ruin hath taught me thus to ruminare,
That Time will come and take my love away.
This thought is as a death, which cannot choose
But weep to have that which it fears to lose.

1. The speaker in the poem seems concerned with
 - a. A desire to control time
 - b. Nature's predictable changes
 - c. Slavery's cold injustice
 - d. The kingdom's interchangeable politics
 - e. Time's destructive power
2. The subject of the poem's first sentence
 - a. "I" (line 1)
 - b. "Cost" (line 2)
 - c. "Advantage" (line 3)
 - d. "Store" (line 8)
 - e. "Ruin" (line 11)
3. In lines 1-4, "rich proud cost," "lofty towers," and "brass eternal" all have which of the following in common?
 - a. Images of political wealth
 - b. Link the speaker to his past
 - c. Become examples of ruin
 - d. Demonstrate the process of order out of chaos
 - e. Develop into military symbols
4. In lines 5-6, the ocean might be viewed as
 - a. An army of voracious soldiers
 - b. A pair of hands caressing the shore
 - c. A group of diligent workers

- d. A collection of struggling poets
 - e. A court of foppish dandies
5. The word “win” in line 7 in context probably means
- a. Try
 - b. Triumph
 - c. Gain
 - d. Convince
 - e. Achieve
6. The ocean image in lines 5-8 is unlike the images in lines 1-4 because it
- a. Describes an ongoing exchange while the others illustrate a sense of finality
 - b. Attempts to mask the speaker’s boredom while the others sound genuinely exciting
 - c. Is an example of simile while the others show personification
 - d. Interrupts the pedagogic flow of the poem while the others favor edification
 - e. Develops a complaint about nature while the others praise nature’s wonder
7. Lines 9-10 act as a
- a. Summary of previous lines
 - b. Contradiction to previous lines
 - c. Main theme for the whole poem
 - d. Rhetorical question leading toward the conclusion
 - e. Couplet in the sestet
8. In the final line, the word “weep” is used because the speaker
- a. Can't accept the loss of his love
 - b. Wishes to mirror the action of the ocean
 - c. Fights against an unnatural force
 - d. Cannot enjoy what he knows will not stay
 - e. Is contemplating his own mortality
9. Which of the following does NOT appear in the final two lines?
- a. Antithesis
 - b. Simile
 - c. Personification
 - d. Apostrophe
 - e. Couplet rhyme
10. Throughout the poem, the speaker’s tone seems to be
- a. Cheerful but understated
 - b. Resolved but sad
 - c. Lonely but hopeful
 - d. Vulnerable but suspicious
 - e. Antic but sober