

Summer Stars

by Carl Sandburg

- Bend low again, night of summer stars.
So near you are, sky of summer stars,
So near, a long-arm man can pick off stars,
Pick off what he wants in the sky bowl,
5 So near you are, summer stars,
So near, strumming, strumming,
So lazy and hum-strumming.

December Leaves

by Kaye Starbird

- The fallen leaves are cornflakes
That fill the lawn's wide dish,
And night and noon
The wind's a spoon
5 That stirs them with a swish.
- The sky's a silver sifter,
A-sifting white and slow,
That gently shakes
On crisp brown flakes
10 The sugar known as snow.

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"December Leaves" from *Don't Ever Cross a Crocodile and Other Poems* by Kaye Starbird; J. P. Lippincott Company, © 1963, 1991 by Kaye Starbird Jennison.

1. Which **best** describes the mood in "Summer Stars"?
 - A spiteful
 - B peaceful
 - C joyful
 - D regretful

2. In "Summer Stars," what is the author trying to show?
 - A Stars in the summer seem very close to Earth.
 - B Summer stars are less vivid than winter stars.
 - C Some stars are closer to Earth than others.
 - D A night of summer stars is like a man with long arms.

3. What is the effect of the author's use of metaphor in "December Leaves"?
 - A It gives the poem a somber, formal tone.
 - B It lets the reader relate the poem's subject to a familiar activity.
 - C It creates a mood of gloom and mystery.
 - D It emphasizes the connection between December and the weather.

4. In "December Leaves," what comparison is made?
 - A fallen leaves on a lawn to a wide dish
 - B day and night to the stirring of a spoon
 - C snow falling out of the sky to crisp cornflakes
 - D snow falling on leaves to sugar falling on cornflakes

5. What do both authors **most likely** want readers to feel after reading their poems?
 - A Nature is more interesting when there is bad weather.
 - B The power of nature should be feared and respected.
 - C The seasons are alike in many ways.
 - D There is comfort, wonder, and beauty in nature.

End of Set

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