

## A Lucky Thing

by Alice Schertle

High  
up in a hawthorn tree  
a robin perched, where he could see  
into a coop of wire and wood.  
Inside the coop a farmer stood  
flinging grain upon the ground.  
Twelve fat chickens gathered round.

The robin,  
singing, cocked his head  
and watched the chickens being fed.  
He saw it was a lucky thing  
to be a chicken: Farmers bring  
you golden grain, scoop after scoop,  
if you're a chicken in a coop—  
a lovely coop with nesting boxes  
safe from cats and crows and foxes.

The chickens  
in the coop could see  
the bird. They heard his melody  
and clucked it was a lucky thing  
to be a robin who could sing  
a song upon a hawthorn tree.  
They watched him through the woven  
wire.  
They saw him fly up high, and higher.

Twelve fat chickens  
scratched the floor.  
The farmer closed  
and latched  
the door.

From *A Lucky Thing* by Alice Schertle, copyright © 1999, 1997 by Alice Schertle, reprinted by permission of the author. This material may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the author, Alice Schertle.

1. Which **best** describes the theme of the poem?
- A Envy is a destructive emotion.
  - B Freedom is better than security.
  - C Things are not appreciated until they are gone.
  - D People often wish for things that others have.
2. How does the author make her point in the poem?
- A by showing what the farmer sees
  - B by suggesting what the birds are thinking
  - C by explaining how attractive the coop is
  - D by describing what the birds are eating
3. What is the robin's attitude about the chickens?
- A He is surprised by them.
  - B He feels envy toward them.
  - C He thinks they are lazy.
  - D He is proud of them.

4. According to the information in the poem, which relationship is **most similar** to the relationship below?

robin : hawthorn tree

- A foxes : nesting boxes
  - B farmer : golden grain
  - C chicken : coop
  - D cats : foxes
5. Which is **most similar** to the situation described in the poem?
- A A dog wishes to catch the neighbor's cat.
  - B A squirrel hopes to gather enough food for winter.
  - C A cow wishes to run free with the wild horses.
  - D An insect hopes to escape being eaten by a frog.

### End of Set

*In compliance with federal law, including the provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Department of Public Instruction does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or military service in its policies, programs, activities, admissions or employment.*