

Whitetails

by Eugene J. Fisher

The deer appeared in the lower paddock.
Fourteen in all, a herd, white tails held high
against the melting snow.
Even the crows are silent,
5 for a moment.
My daughter and I inch forward,
unbreathing.
But still they start
And bound smartly over our fence
10 and our neighbors',
effortlessly flying through the air,
one after the other.
The smallest seemed lost for a moment, unsure of herself,
wandering back and forth along the fence
15 as her world leapt away.
She disappeared behind a tree
and flew to join the others.
Our horses whinnied
and returned to their hay.

"Whitetails" by Eugene J. Fisher, Great Falls, Virginia. Used by permission of the author.

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| 1. What is the setting of this poem? | 2. What is <i>most</i> important in this poem? |
| A a city block | A movement |
| B a small farm | B color |
| C a tropical forest. | C character |
| D an apartment block | D rhyme |

3. Which is a characteristic of the speaker's response to the deer?
- A aggressiveness
 - B impatience
 - C sensitivity
 - D stubbornness
4. In line 15, to what does "her world" *most likely* refer?
- A the forest
 - B the paddock
 - C the fence
 - D the other deer
5. Which phrase *best* describes the resolution in the last two lines?
- A a tearless regret
 - B an end to an unusual dream
 - C a return to a normal routine
 - D an unsolved mystery
6. Which experience is *most similar* to the experience in the selection?
- A A flock of swans briefly visits a farm pond.
 - B A dog is injured in a fight with a goose.
 - C A boy goes hunting alone in the forest.
 - D A large snowstorm paralyzes a small town.
7. Which statement *best* describes the speaker in the poem?
- A He is chasing away deer.
 - B He is inspired at the sight of the deer.
 - C He does not enjoy cold weather.
 - D He prefers not to get too close to wildlife.

8. Which is the *best* summary of this poem?
- A A visitation from deer makes a quiet winter day memorable.
 - B Horses and deer show that they are related.
 - C Humans feel that they must tolerate destruction done by wild animals.
 - D Deer earn the admiration of humans for their beauty and resourcefulness.
9. What is described by the poem's title?
- A its message
 - B its mood
 - C its subject
 - D its viewpoint
10. Which was true when the speaker first saw the deer?
- A There was very little sound.
 - B Some horses had escaped their pen.
 - C The weather was cold and violent.
 - D The deer showed no fear of humans.

11. What conclusion can *best* be drawn from the horses' behavior in the poem?
- A They have never seen the deer before.
 - B They can leap the fence as the deer do.
 - C They resent the deer sharing their food.
 - D They have had visits from the deer before.

End of Set

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