



Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Grade 4

Answer Key

The River's Song

*The river is a silver ribbon
threading through the valley floor,
a restless traveler with no luggage,
always leaving, always more.*

*It is a storyteller too,
whispering to every stone
it passes on its journey down,
never resting, never alone.*

*Sometimes the river is a mirror,
holding up the sky so still,
until a fish or falling leaf
sends ripples rushing past the mill.*

*In springtime it becomes a drum,
pounding loud with melted snow,
a rushing, roaring, wild parade
with nowhere left to go but go.*

*By summer's end it is a whisper,
thin and quiet, calm and slow,
a patient friend who's seen it all*

and simply lets the seasons flow.

Circle the Correct Answer

1. What does the poem call the river in the first stanza?

Answer: a) A silver ribbon

2. What is the river compared to when it "holds up the sky so still"?

Answer: b) A mirror

3. What does the river become in springtime, according to the poem?

Answer: a) A drum, pounding loud with melted snow

4. How is the river described by summer's end?

Answer: b) A whisper, thin and quiet

True or False

5. The poem describes the river the same way in every season.

Answer: False

6. The poem compares the river to a storyteller.

Answer: True

7. According to the poem, a fish or falling leaf can create ripples in the river.

Answer: True

Fill in the Blank

8. The poem calls the river a restless _____ with no luggage.

Answer: traveler

9. By summer's end, the river is described as a patient _____ who's seen it all.

Answer: friend

Think and Explain

10. This poem uses metaphors, direct comparisons that do not use "like" or "as" (for example, calling the river "a silver ribbon" instead of saying it looks like one). Find two metaphors in the poem and explain what each one helps you understand or picture about the river.

Sample answer: Accept reasonable answers identifying metaphors such as 'the river is a silver ribbon,' 'it is a storyteller,' 'the river is a mirror,' 'it becomes a drum,' or 'it is a whisper,' explaining how each metaphor captures a different quality of the river, such as its appearance, sound, movement, or mood across the seasons.