

ANALYZING POETRY: WHEN I WAS ONE-AND-TWENTY

Answer the following questions about the poem.

1. What kind of advice does the wise man give the speaker?

- a. medical **b.** love c. career

2. Part A: How does the speaker first react to the man's advice?

- a. The speaker thanks the man for the advice.
b. The speaker promises to follow the advice.
c. The speaker wonders whether the advice is helpful.
d. The speaker ignores the man's advice.

Part B: Cite evidence from the poem to support your answer to part A.

In lines 7-8, the speaker says, "But I was one-and-twenty, no use to talk to me." This shows the speaker's disregard for the man's advice.

3. Which word best describes the speaker's tone?

- a.** reflective b. curious
c. optimistic d. playful

4. What effect does the repetition of the line "When I was one-and-twenty" have on the poem?

The repetition emphasizes the speaker's youth and inexperience when receiving the advice, illustrating his stage of life and why he likely didn't take the advice to heart.

5. Part A: Based on lines 15 and 16, what can you infer about the speaker? Choose two.

- a.** He's heartbroken.
b. He's happily married.
c. He lost all his money.
d. He blames the wise man for his problems.
e. He now understands the wise man's warning.

Part B: Cite evidence from the poem to support your answer to part A.

In line 16, the speaker says "And oh, 'tis true, 'tis true," showing that he's learned through heartbreak that the wise man was right.

6. Give an example of alliteration in the poem.

- "fancy free," (line 6),
- "Two-and-twenty... 'tis true, 'tis true" (lines 15-16)

7. Summarize the theme of the poem.

One theme focuses on youth and inexperience. Young and naive individuals often ignore advice from others, learning only from experience and by making mistakes themselves. Another theme focuses on love, suggesting that love inevitably leads to pain and suffering.