

Fireflies in the Garden

by Robert Frost

Here come real stars to fill the upper skies,
And here on earth come emulating flies,
That though they never equal stars in size,
(And they were never really stars at heart)
Achieve at times a very star-like start.
Only, of course, they can't sustain the part.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What kind of insect is this poem about?

- A. dragonflies
- B. ants
- C. fireflies
- D. grasshoppers

2. What does the poet compare and contrast fireflies with in this poem?

- A. planes
- B. planets
- C. comets
- D. stars

3. Read these lines from the poem:

And here on earth come emulating flies,

That though they never equal stars in size,

(And they were never really stars at heart)

Achieve at times a very star-like start.

Only, of course, they can't sustain the part.

What can you conclude from these lines?

- A. The fireflies cannot act like they are stars for very long.
- B. The fireflies do not want to be like stars.
- C. The fireflies are able to shine brightly like stars without ever stopping.
- D. The fireflies can grow to be the same size as stars.

4. Read these lines from the poem:

That though they never equal stars in size,

(And they were never really stars at heart)

Achieve at times a very star-like start.

Only, of course, they can't sustain the part.

Why might the poet have included the phrase "of course" in the last line?

- A. to show that the poet does not really know much about fireflies
- B. to show that the poet thought the fireflies would be able to sustain the part
- C. to show that the poet wishes that fireflies could sustain the part
- D. to show that the poet is not surprised that fireflies cannot sustain the part

5. What is the main idea of this poem?

- A. Fireflies can seem very star-like, but only for a short time.
- B. Although stars are larger in size, fireflies are more beautiful than stars.
- C. Fireflies live in the garden, while stars appear in the sky.
- D. Fireflies and stars are both interesting things to study.

6. Read these lines from the poem:

And here on earth come emulating flies,
That though they never equal stars in size,
(And they were never really stars at heart)
Achieve at times a very star-like start.

Why might the poet have chosen to use the word "achieve" in the last of these lines?

- A. to make it seem like fireflies do not want to look like stars
- B. to make it seem like fireflies sometimes look like stars by accident
- C. to make it seem like fireflies are very intelligent insects
- D. to make it seem like fireflies are trying and succeeding at looking like stars

7. What does the word "they" refer to throughout the poem?

- A. stars
- B. skies
- C. flies
- D. parts

8. What are two ways that the poet contrasts flies and stars in this poem?

9. In what way are flies similar to stars, based on the poem?

10. "Emulating" means imitating, or trying to be like something else. Why might the poet have called fireflies "emulating flies" in this poem? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
