

# A Bird Came Down the Walk

By Emily Dickinson

A Bird came down the Walk—  
He did not know I saw—  
He bit an Angleworm in halves  
And ate the fellow, raw,

And then he drank a Dew 5  
From a convenient Grass—  
And then hopped sidewise to the Wall  
To let a Beetle pass—

He glanced with rapid eyes 10  
That hurried all around—  
They looked like frightened Beads, I thought—  
He stirred his Velvet Head

Like one in danger, Cautious,  
I offered him a Crumb  
And he unrolled his feathers 15  
And rowed him softer home—

Than Oars divide the Ocean,  
Too silver for a seam—  
Or Butterflies, off Banks of Noon  
Leap, plashless as they swim. 20

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the speaker watching throughout this poem?

- A. a leaf
- B. a beetle
- C. a bird
- D. a worm

2. This poem uses rhyme in many places. What are two lines of the poem that rhyme?

- A. lines 2 and 4
- B. lines 1 and 3
- C. lines 2 and 3
- D. lines 3 and 4

3. Read lines 9-13 of the poem. Based on this evidence, what can you conclude about how the bird is feeling?

- A. The bird feels nervous and scared.
- B. The bird feels proud and strong.
- C. The bird feels excited and happy.
- D. The bird feels bored and restless.

4. When in the poem does the bird most likely notice that the speaker is watching him?

- A. lines 9-10
- B. lines 17-18

C. lines 1-2

D. lines 7-8

**5. What is the main idea of this poem?**

- A. A bird comes down the walk and then swims through a puddle of water.
- B. A bird comes down the walk and eats crumbs out of the speaker's hand.
- C. A bird comes down the walk, eats a worm, and drinks a dewdrop from some grass.
- D. A bird comes down the walk but flies away when the speaker offers him a crumb.

**6. Read these lines from the poem:**

He stirred his Velvet Head

Like one in danger, Cautious, I offered him a Crumb And he unrolled his feathers And  
rowed him softer home-

Than Oars divide the Ocean,

What does the phrase "rowed him softer home" mean here?

- A. chirped quietly
- B. hopped onto a boat
- C. flew away softly
- D. swam through a puddle

**7. Read these lines from the poem:**

He glanced with rapid eyes That hurried all around- They looked like frightened Beads, I  
thought-

To whom or what does the word "they" refer?

- A. the speaker and the bird
- B. the bird and his friends
- C. the bird's wings
- D. the bird's eyes

**8.** Read the first two stanzas of the poem. What are three things that the bird does in this part of the poem?

**9.** Describe how the bird probably feels in the first two stanzas of the poem. Use evidence from the poem to support your answer.

**10.** How do the bird's feelings change over the course of the poem? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.