

Poetry and Poets: Robert Frost:

Name: _____

Robert Frost (1874-1963) is one of the most celebrated American poets. He received the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry four times and received the Congressional Gold Medal in 1960. Frost wrote vibrant poetry about nature and the rural life. Below is one of his poems from a collection published in 1916. Read it carefully and answer the questions below.

The Line-Gang

by Robert Frost

Rhyme Scheme

Here come the line-gang pioneering by.

They throw a forest down less cut than broken.

They plant dead trees for living, and the dead

They string together with a living thread.

They string an instrument against the sky

Wherein words whether beaten out or spoken

Will run as hushed as when they were a thought.

But in no hush they string it: they go past

With shouts afar to pull the cable taut,

To hold it hard until they make it fast,

To ease away—they have it. With a laugh,

An oath of towns that set the wild at naught

They bring the telephone and telegraph.

Questions:

1. What is the rhyme scheme in this poem?
2. What does “beaten out” and “spoken” refer to in the phrase “words whether beaten out or spoken”?
3. Explain what the phrase “They plant dead trees for living” means.
4. What is the meaning of the word “fast” in the poem?
5. How many syllables are in the first line? In the last?

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Rhyme Scheme

A

B

C

C

A

B

D

E

D

E

F

D

F

Questions: Student's answers may vary; examples of correct answers:

1. What is the rhyme scheme in this poem?

ABCCABDEDEFDF

2. What does “beaten out” and “spoken” refer to in the phrase “words whether beaten out or spoken”?

Words tapped out on a telegraph or spoken into a telephone

3. Explain what the phrase “They plant dead trees for living” means.

They replace living trees with “dead” telephone or telegraph poles.

4. What is the meaning of the word “fast” in the poem?

secure

5. How many syllables are in the first line? In the last?

10/10