

“The Day Is Done”

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The day is done, and the darkness
Falls from the wings of Night,
As a feather is wafted downward
From an eagle in his flight.

I see the lights of the village 5
Gleam through the rain and the mist,
And a feeling of sadness comes o'er me
That my soul cannot resist:

A feeling of sadness and longing, 10
That is not akin to pain,
And resembles sorrow only
As the mist resembles the rain.

Come, read to me some poem, 15
Some simple and heartfelt lay,
That shall soothe this restless feeling,
And banish the thoughts of day.

Not from the grand old masters, 20
Not from the bards sublime,
Whose distant footsteps echo
Through the corridors of Time.

For, like strains of martial music,
Their mighty thoughts suggest
Life's endless toil and endeavor;
And to-night I long for rest.

Read from some humbler poet, 25
Whose songs gushed from his heart,
As showers from the clouds of summer,
Or tears from the eyelids start;

Who, through long days of labor, 30
And nights devoid of ease,
Still heard in his soul the music
Of wonderful melodies.

Such songs have power to quiet 35
The restless pulse of care,
And come like the benediction
That follows after prayer.

Then read from the treasured volume
The poem of thy choice,
And lend to the rhyme of the poet
The beauty of thy voice. 40

And the night shall be filled with music,
And the cares, that infest the day,
Shall fold their tents, like the Arabs,
And as silently steal away.

“I’ll Tell You How the Sun Rose”

By Emily Dickinson

I’ll tell you how the Sun rose—

A Ribbon at a time—

The Steeples swam in Amethyst—

The news, like Squirrels, ran—

The Hills untied their Bonnets— 5

The Bobolinks—began—

Then I said softly to myself—

“That must have been the Sun”!

But how he set – I know not—

There seemed a purple stile 10

That little Yellow boys and girls

Were climbing all the while—

Till when they reached the other side—

A Dominie in Gray—

Put gently up the evening Bars— 15

And led the flock away—

Directions: After reading, annotating, and analyzing the poems, answer the following questions **on a separate piece of paper**. Be clear and do your best with the annotations. It will help you answer the questions.

“The Day Is Done” Questions

1. Describe the setting of the poem (where is it, what time of day is it, and what is the weather like)?
2. A) In the third stanza, what does the speaker say that his sorrow “resembles”? B) What does this comparison mean?
3. The speaker talks about two different kinds of poems. A) What are they? B) How is the “music” of these poems different?
4. A) What kind of poem (“music”) does the speaker want to hear? B) How does it say will help him?
5. The last stanza of Longfellow’s poem is famous and often quoted often. How does it bring the poem to a satisfying close? In other words, explain what happens in the final stanza.

“I’ll Tell You How the Sun Rose” Questions

1. The speaker describes the sun rising “a ribbon at a time.” What image does this phrase give the reader?
2. A) What in the poem is the color of amethyst? B) In what way might the “steeple” appear to “[swim] in amethyst”?
3. Notice the colors the speaker uses to describe the “stile” (line 10), the children (line 11), and the dominie (line 14). How do these colors and actions described in lines 10-16 suggest the setting sun?