**Nothing Gold Can Stay**

**Robert Frost, 1874 - 1963**

Nature’s first green is gold,

Her hardest hue to hold.

Her early leaf’s a flower;

But only so an hour.

Then leaf subsides to leaf.

So Eden sank to grief,

So dawn goes down to day.

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**Nothing Gold Can Stay-- Questions**

1. What does Frost mean by the line “Her hardest hue to hold”?
2. Seasons pass quickly but always return.
3. Nature is constantly changing.
4. Nature should be protected.
5. Time flies.
6. Why do you think Robert Frost references the Garden of Eden in this poem?

a) to indicate that nature is as perfect as Eden

b) to compare the changes in nature to a loss of innocence in paradise

c) to indicate that paradise is lost in the winter

1. to indicate that paradise is lost at the end of the day

3) Which of the following best describes a central theme of the text?

a) Love is fickle and inconsistent.

b) The most beautiful aspects of life are often fleeting.

c) Perfection and paradise are unattainable.

d) Nature is a circle of life, death, and rebirth.

4) Which of the following quotes best supports the answer to question 3?

a) “Nature’s first green is gold” (Line 1)

b) “Her early leaf’s a flower;” (Line 3)

c) “So Eden sank to grief” (Line 6)

d) “Nothing gold can stay.” (Line 8)

5) In line 6, “Eden” is an allusion to the biblical Garden of Eden. Why might the speaker choose this as a symbol? What does Eden represent in this poem? Explain your answer.

6) The speaker personifies nature; In other words, the speaker presents nature in a human form by referring to it as “her.” Why does the speaker make a connection between the life of nature and the life of people? Support your answer.

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