

Name: _____ Class: _____

Dragonfly

By Bill Johnson
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Bill Johnson has written for Highlights. In this poem, a speaker describes a dragonfly. As you read, take notes on the words that the speaker uses to describe the dragonfly.

- [1] A dazzling¹-colored dragonfly darts back and forth near me.
I pause and watch her hover² there so close that I can see
- [5] two bulging eyes,
four sparkling wings.
She then begins to fly.
Oh, how I wish
that I could join
- [10] this dragon in the sky!



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1. **Dazzling (adjective):** extremely bright
2. to remain in one place in the air

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which sentence describes the theme of the poem?
 - A. Humans often don't notice the beauty of dragonflies.
 - B. Dragonflies are beautiful and special creatures.
 - C. People always want what they can't have.
 - D. Sometimes you have to look closely to notice beauty.

2. PART B: Which detail from the text best support the answer to Part A?
 - A. "darts back and forth near me." (Line 2)
 - B. "I pause and watch her hover there" (Line 3)
 - C. "four sparkling wings." (Line 6)
 - D. "She then begins to fly." (Line 7)

3. What does the conclusion of the poem suggest about the speaker?
 - A. They are inspired by the dragonfly's movements.
 - B. They feel trapped because they can't fly.
 - C. They are angry the dragonfly can fly and they can't.
 - D. They are going to miss the dragonfly terribly.

4. How does the speaker react to seeing the dragonfly?

Discussion Questions

Directions: Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.

1. In the poem, the speaker describes a dragonfly. How does the description of the dragonfly explore the power and beauty of nature? Describe a time when you were amazed by something in nature.
 2. Have you ever seen a dragonfly? Did you consider it beautiful? Why or why not?