

“*Nothing Gold Can Stay*” by Robert Frost

Name: _____

Please use the poem found here: <https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/nothing-gold-can-stay>

Analyze each line of the poem for the poem’s **literal meaning**:

Line 1. *Nature’s first green is gold,*

What is nature? _____

What in nature is green? _____

What in nature is gold? _____

Line 2. *Her hardest hue to hold.*

What is a “hue”? _____

Notice how many words begin with the letter *h*. This is an example of an **alliteration**!

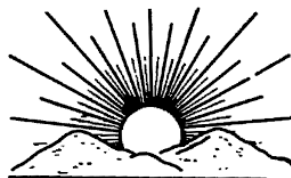
Line 3. *Her early leaf’s a flower;*

Life Cycle of a Plant: A seed germinates, grows, and develops into a plant. **Metaphor** is used to directly compare the leaf to a flower.

For instance, you would pause for a longer period of time when you encounter a semicolon(;), than a comma(,).

What do you think this line means? _____

In lines 2 & 3, “nature” is referred to as “her”. This is an example of **personification.



Line 4. *But only so an hour.*

Assonance is the repetition of vowel sounds in words.

What eventually happens to flowers after they grow and bloom? _____

Line 5. *Then leaf subsides to leaf.*

A leaf is sprout, a leaf dies, a leaf grows, a leaf dies, cont.....

What do you think the word "*subsides*" means? _____

Line 6. *So Eden sank to grief,*

In some religions, Eden is a beautiful, perfect garden which was destroyed.

What is **grief**? _____

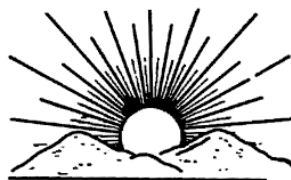
Line 7. *So dawn goes down to day,*

What time of day is dawn: _____

What poetic element is apparent in this line? _____

Line 8. *Nothing gold can stay.*

In nature, what gold items do not stay?

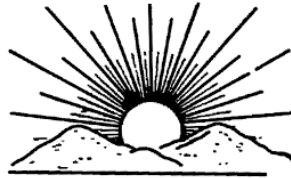


Denotation - The **denotation** of a word is the word's *literal meaning* (actual). This is based on the actual words in their ordinary meaning or the real meaning of a word.

Denotation can best be remembered as the dictionary definition of a word.

What is the **denotation** of the word *gold*? _____

The **literal meaning** of a piece of literature are the words actual meaning. What do you think is the **literal meaning** of the poem, "Nothing Gold Can Stay"?



Analyze each line of the poem for the poem's **figurative meaning** by using the sentence stems as a guide:

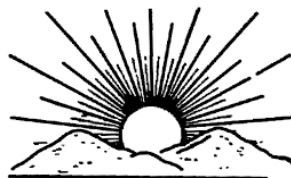
Line 1. *Nature's first green is gold,*

In the beginning, life is _____ and a person is _____.

Line 2. *Her hardest hue to hold.*

It is difficult for life to stay _____.

People encounter _____ and _____.



Line 3. *Her early leaf's a flower;*

When you are born, you are considered a _____.

What do you think "nature" is symbolic of? _____

Line 4. *But only so an hour.*

As time progresses, you _____ and your _____ ends.

Line 5. *Then leaf subsides to leaf.*

As you _____, you experience the different stages of life.

Line 6. *So Eden sank to grief,*

However, you reflect back to your _____ and miss those innocent years.

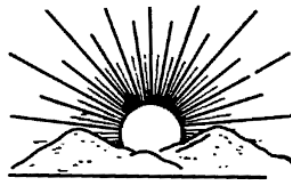
What does "Eden" represent? _____

Line 7. *So dawn goes down to day,*

Each person grows into an _____.

Line 8. *Nothing gold can stay.*

Ultimately, every person will _____ their youth and innocence.



Connotation - The **connotation** is a word's *symbolic meaning*, which is representing one thing in terms of another that may be thought of as a symbol. **Connotation** can best be remembered as the symbolic meaning of a word.

What is the **connotation** of the word *gold*? _____

What does gold symbolize?

Loss of _____

What did Ponyboy and Johnny lose in the novel, *The Outsiders*? _____

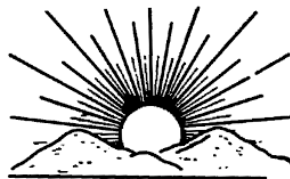
The **figurative meaning** of a piece of literature are the words symbolic meaning. What do you think is the **figurative meaning** of the poem, "Nothing Gold Can Stay"?

Many fine things in life are gold in color which shows their worth.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| • Trophies | The "Golden Years" | Treasure |
| • The gold medal in the Olympics | Fortune/wealth | A Sunrise |
| • Wedding rings | Golden Retriever | A Sunset |

Do you think it is a coincidence that the author chose gold as the color? _____

What is "gold" for you?



“*Nothing Gold Can Stay*” by Robert Frost

Name: KEY

Please use the poem found here: <https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/nothing-gold-can-stay>

Analyze each line of the poem for the poem’s **literal meaning**:

Line 1. *Nature’s first green is gold,*

What is nature? Woods, forest, plants, etc.

What in nature is green? Leaves, bushes, grass, etc.

What in nature is gold? Leaves, flowers, sun, wheat, etc.

Line 2. *Her hardest hue to hold.*

What is a “hue”? color

Notice how many words begin with the letter *h*. This is an example of an **alliteration**!

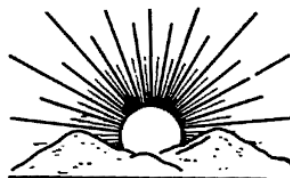
Line 3. *Her early leaf’s a flower;*

Life Cycle of a Plant: A seed germinates, grows, and develops into a plant. **Metaphor** is used to directly compare the leaf to a flower.

For instance, you would pause for a longer period of time when you encounter a semicolon(;), than a comma(,).

What do you think this line means? First there is a bud, then a flower.

In lines 2 & 3, “nature” is referred to as “her”. This is an example of **personification.



Line 4. *But only so an hour.*

Assonance is the repetition of vowel sounds in words.

What eventually happens to flowers after they grow and bloom? die

Line 5. *Then leaf subsides to leaf.*

A leaf is sprout, a leaf dies, a leaf grows, a leaf dies, cont.....

What do you think the word "*subsides*" means? Fade away

Line 6. *So E den sank to grief,*

In some religions, E den is a beautiful, perfect garden which was destroyed.

What is **grief**? sadness

Line 7. *So dawn goes down to day,*

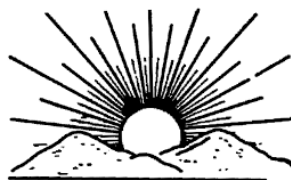
What time of day is dawn: morning

What poetic element is apparent in this line? alliteration

Line 8. *Nothing gold can stay.*

In nature, what gold items do not stay?

Flowers, sunrise, leaves, Garden of E den, leaves

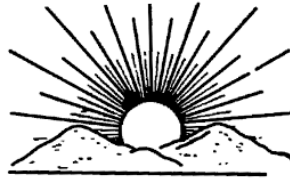


Denotation - The **denotation** of a word is the word's *literal meaning* (actual). This is based on the actual words in their ordinary meaning or the real meaning of a word.

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What is the **denotation** of the word *gold*? Precious metal or color

The **literal meaning** of a piece of literature are the words actual meaning. What do you think is the **literal meaning** of the poem, "Nothing Gold Can Stay"?



Analyze each line of the poem for the poem's **figurative meaning** by using the sentence stems as a guide:

ANSWERS WILL GREATLY VARY:

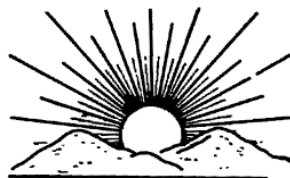
Line 1. *Nature's first green is gold,*

In the beginning, life is precious, good, new and a person is youthful, happy.

Line 2. *Her hardest hue to hold.*

It is difficult for life to stay perfect, wonderful.

People encounter conflicts and bad things.



Line 3. *Her early leaf's a flower;*

When you are born, you are considered a baby, kid.

What do you think "nature" is symbolic of? Life, good things

Line 4. *But only so an hour.*

As time progresses, you age, grow and your childhood, youth ends.

Line 5. *Then leaf subsides to leaf.*

As you grow, mature, you experience the different stages of life.

Line 6. *So Eden sank to grief,*

However, you reflect back to your childhood, good times and miss those innocent years.

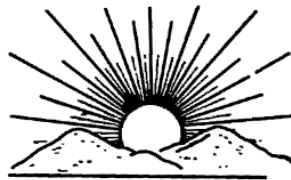
What does "Eden" represent? Something gold (good, great, wonderful)

Line 7. *So dawn goes down to day,*

Each person grows into an adult.

Line 8. *Nothing gold can stay.*

Ultimately, every person's youth and innocence end.



Connotation - The **connotation** is a word's *symbolic meaning*, which is representing one thing in terms of another that may be thought of as a symbol. **Connotation** can best be remembered as the symbolic meaning of a word.

What is the **connotation** of the word *gold*? Anything good or great

What does gold symbolize?

Loss of youth innocence

What did Ponyboy and Johnny lose in the novel, *The Outsiders*? Their youth/innocence; each other; Dally and Bob

The **figurative meaning** of a piece of literature are the words symbolic meaning. What do you think is the **figurative meaning** of the poem, "Nothing Gold Can Stay"?

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- | | | |
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Do you think it is a coincidence that the author chose gold as the color? NO

What is "gold" for you?

