**“Identity” by Pablo Noboa Polanco**

Let them be as flowers,

always watered, fed, guarded, admired

but harnessed to a pot of dirt.

I’d rather be a tall, ugly weed,

clinging on cliffs, like an eagle

wind-wavering above high, jagged rocks.

To have broken through the surface of stone

to live, to feel exposed to the madness

of the vast, eternal sky.

To be swayed by the breezes of an ancient sea,

carrying my soul, my seed beyond the mountains of time

or into the abyss of the bizarre.

I’d rather be unseen, and if,

then shunned by everyone

than to be a pleasant-smelling flower,

growing in clusters in the fertile valley

where they’re praised, handled, and plucked

by greedy human hands.

I’d rather smell of musty, green stench

than of sweet, fragrant lilac.

If I could stand alone, strong and free

I’d rather be a tall, ugly weed.

1. “Identity” is an example of which style of poetry?
   1. Epic
   2. Sonnet
   3. Free verse
   4. Rhymed Verse
2. The line “I’d rather be a tall, ugly weed” is an example of
   1. Refrain
   2. Alliteration
   3. Assonance
   4. Onomatopoeia
3. Which lines show the poet’s use of simile?
   1. “To be swayed by the breezes of an ancient sea, carrying my soul”
   2. “I’d rather smell of musty, green stench than of sweet, fragrant lilac”
   3. “to live, to feel exposed to the madness of the vast, eternal sky”
   4. “Clinging on cliffs, like an eagle wind-wavering above high, jagged rocks.”
4. In “Identity,” flowers are a symbol of
   1. Captivity
   2. Isolation
   3. Desire
   4. Liberty
5. In line 14, the word **shunned** most likely means
   1. eagerly awaited
   2. highly visible
   3. purposely avoided
   4. loosely disguised

**“Childhood” by Sharan Strange**

Summer brought fireflies in swarms.

They lit our evenings like dreams

we thought we couldn’t have.

We caught them in jars, punched

holes, carried them around for days.

Luminous abdomens that when charged

with air turned bright. Imagine!

Mere insects carrying such cargo,

magical caravans flickering beneath

low July skies. We chased them, amazed.

The idea! Those tiny bodies

pulsing phosphorescence.

They made reckless traffic,

signaling, neon flashes forever

into the deepening dusk.

They gave us new faith

in the nasty tonics of childhood,

pungent, murky liquids promising

shining eyes, strong teeth, glowing skin,

and we silently vowed to swallow ever after.

What was the secret of light?

We wanted their brilliance:

small fires hovering,

each tiny explosion

the birth of a new world.

1. 1. Lines 2-3 (“They lit our evenings like dreams/we thought we couldn’t have.”) contain an example of:
   1. personification
   2. A simile
   3. alliteration
   4. onomatopoeia
2. Line 23 (small fires hovering) contains an example of
   1. alliteration
   2. rhyme scheme
   3. a metaphor
   4. an allusion
3. What do the fireflies symbolize to the speaker?
   1. Kindness
   2. Innocence
   3. Indifference
   4. Friendship
4. Which line from “Childhood” contains alliteration?
   1. “They lit our evenings like dreams”
   2. “low July skies. We chased them, amazed”
   3. “into the deepening dusk”
   4. “small fires hovering”
5. What type of poetry is “Childhood”?
   1. Free verse
   2. A sonnet
   3. An epic
   4. A dramatic poem
6. What is the theme of this poem?
   1. There is no better time than childhood
   2. Fireflies are important to all people
   3. Childhood is a struggle to get through
   4. Fireflies glow during the summer

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