

Read this poem and use the questions after it to guide your discussion.

The Tropics in New York

Bananas ripe and green, and ginger-root,
Cocoa in pods and alligator pears,
And tangerines and mangoes and grapefruit,
Fit for the highest prize at parish fairs.

Set in the window, bringing memories
Of fruit-trees laden by low-singing rills,
And dewy dawns, and musical blue skies
In benediction over nun-like hills.

My eyes grew dim, and I could no more gaze;
A wave of longing through my body swept,
And, hungry for the old, familiar ways,
I turned aside and bowed my head and wept.

Claude Mckay

1. Explain how the title of the poem is reflected in the details the poet uses.
2. What aspects of the poet's homeland does he recall?
3. What sights remind him of his homeland?
4. a. What main feature of his homeland does he describe in stanza one(1)?
b. Which words in the stanza suggest this main feature?
5. Find the stanza in which the poet expresses his feelings.
What are those feelings?
Which words and expressions are used to convey them?
6. What is the poet's final reaction?
7. The poet uses metaphors in the following:
alligator pears
mystical blue skies in benediction
nun-like hills
low-singing rills
a wave of longing
Say what the comparison is in each of them. Comment on their suitability.

PUNCTUATION

Refer to the passage in order to answer these questions.

1. Examine the use of the comma in the following sentences.

a. The golden apple bears an abundant harvest of yellow fruit which looks, at times, like a cascade of gold.

b. Moreover, these trees do not get enough water because our rainfall is not sufficient for this purpose.

c. It is not surprising, therefore, that the fruit ... an export trade.

d. In this class are the cherry, dunk, gooseberry, guava, akee, sapodilla, and star apple.

2. Choose two other examples in the passage in which the comma is used to separate a series of items.

3. Why are the words "deciduous" and "evergreen" placed in inverted commas?

4. Observe the use of capital letters in the passage

(a) to begin sentences.

(b) as names of places and persons.

(c) as abbreviations.

Give examples of their use.

5. The abbreviation "U.S.A." means United States of America. Give examples of other abbreviations that you know e.g. B.W.I.A., O.P.E.C., C.A.R.I.F.T.A.

Note:

1. Several, few, a few are used with *countable nouns*.
2. Much, little, a little are used with *non-countable nouns*.

PRACTICE

1. Insert the following where appropriate: **several**, **few**, **a few**, **little**, **a little**, **much**

_____ water	_____ cash	_____ pens
_____ juice	_____ money	_____ apples
_____ wine	_____ sugar	_____ days
_____ petrol	_____ salt	_____ bags
_____ oil	_____ powder	_____ teachers
_____ coffee	_____ gravy	_____ boys

2. Insert "much", "many", "few", "a few", "a little", or "little" in the spaces below.

- a. How _____ water is there in the tank?
- b. I have _____ time to complete my assignment.
- c. Carl puts _____ butter on his bread because he doesn't like a lot.
- d. I do not know how _____ oranges are there in the bag.
- e. The careless students paid _____ attention to their teacher in the classroom.
- f. I haven't _____ days left to return to Canada.
- g. There are _____ mangoes left on the tree but they are on the highest branch.
- h. There are _____ beautiful lilies in the pond.
- i. The gardener takes _____ pride in his well-trimmed hedges.
- j. How _____ time do you have to board the plane?
- k. Jane spent _____ money shopping so she had _____ cash left for other things.
- l. There was not _____ petrol in the tank so they could not travel for _____ miles on their journey.
- m. The mason laid _____ blocks as there was not _____ cement with which to work.
- n. There was _____ rain this season so we don't have _____ water in the reservoir.
- o. Our supply of milk will last for only _____ more days and we are hoping to get at least a _____ from friends.

Rewrite the following sentences using the link words in brackets.

1. The climbers reached the summit of Long Mountain. They decided to spend the night there. (not only....but....as well)
2. The security guards searched everywhere. The missing boy could not be found. His pet dog could not be found. (although....neither....nor)
3. Bus fares have increased by fifty percent. The Public Transport Corporation is still running at a loss. The workers have demanded higher salaries. (although.....because)
4. He gave me a scare. The tray of glasses and cutlery fell to the floor. (such.....that)
5. The novelist will give a lecture to the Public Library next week. His latest book was published in Jamaica. (whose)
6. He struggled for half an hour with the fierce dogs. Help arrived. (before)
7. Father hid the birthday present hurriedly at the back of the television. His youngest daughter would not see it. She entered the room. (so that.....when)
8. The earthquake struck at 10:00p.m. in the cinema. Many of us tried to evacuate the building. We were hurt. (when.....who)
9. We did not disturb her. She completed her assignment. (until)
10. He had returned from abroad. He bought a house and a car. (no sooner....than)
11. They disguised themselves with dark glasses, old clothes and weird make up. They wanted no one to recognize them. (so that)