

# Poetry Comprehension

## Furry Bear

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If I were a bear,  
And a big bear too,  
I shouldn't much care  
If it froze or snowed;  
I shouldn't much mind  
If it snowed or friz—  
I'd be all fur-lined  
With a coat like his!

For I'd have fur boots and a brown fur wrap,  
And brown fur knickers and a big fur cap.  
I'd have a fur muffle-ruff to cover my jaws,  
And brown fur mittens on my big brown paws.  
With a big brown furry-down up to my head,  
I'd sleep all the winter in a big fur bed.



1. What type of animal does the speaker imagine being in the poem?
  - A. A lion
  - B. A bear
  - C. A wolf
  - D. A tiger

2. What does the speaker suggest they wouldn't care about if they were a bear?
  - A. Being cold
  - B. Being hungry
  - C. Climbing trees
  - D. Catching fish
  
3. What is the rhyme scheme of the first stanza?
  - A. ABAB
  - B. AABB
  - C. ABCB
  - D. ABBA
  
4. What kind of clothing does the speaker imagine wearing as a bear?
  - A. Silk clothes
  - B. Fur-lined clothing
  - C. Woollen clothing
  - D. Leather clothing
  
5. What would cover the speaker's jaws if they were a bear?
  - A. A scarf
  - B. A fur muffle-ruff
  - C. A handkerchief
  - D. A hood
  
6. What would the speaker wear on their paws if they were a bear?
  - A. Woollen gloves
  - B. Leather gloves
  - C. Fur mittens
  - D. Cotton gloves
  
7. What is the main theme of the poem?
  - A. The beauty of nature
  - B. The comfort of warmth
  - C. The power of imagination
  - D. The importance of sleep
  
8. What would the speaker sleep in if they were a bear?
  - A. A tree
  - B. A cave
  - C. A fur bed
  - D. A den

9. How does the speaker describe the winter weather?
- A. Freezing and snowing
  - B. Warm and sunny
  - C. Cold and windy
  - D. Stormy and rainy
10. What word does the poet use to describe the speaker's head covering?
- A. A hat
  - B. A cap
  - C. A hood
  - D. A scarf
11. What does the phrase "big brown furry-down" refer to?
- A. A type of pillow
  - B. A fur coat
  - C. A warm blanket
  - D. The bear's fur
12. Which of the following best describes the tone of the poem?
- A. Serious
  - B. Playful
  - C. Sad
  - D. Angry
13. What is the significance of the word "big" in the poem?
- A. It emphasises the size of the bear
  - B. It refers to the bear's appetite
  - C. It highlights the bear's strength
  - D. It suggests the bear's age
14. Why does the speaker mention a "big fur bed"?
- A. To show how much bears like to sleep
  - B. To illustrate the comfort of being a bear
  - C. To compare a bear's bed to a human's bed
  - D. To describe the bear's habitat

15. What type of weather is described in the poem?
- A. Springtime rain
  - B. Winter snow
  - C. Autumn winds
  - D. Summer heat
16. Which of the following items is NOT mentioned in the poem?
- A. Fur boots
  - B. Fur cap
  - C. Fur knickers
  - D. Fur shoes
17. What is the purpose of the fur muffle-ruff in the poem?
- A. To cover the bear's paws
  - B. To protect the bear's jaws from the cold
  - C. To keep the bear's feet warm
  - D. To shield the bear's eyes
18. What word is used to describe the bear's fur in the poem?
- A. Soft
  - B. Fluffy
  - C. Brown
  - D. Shiny
19. Which season is most likely being referred to in the poem?
- A. Spring
  - B. Summer
  - C. Autumn
  - D. Winter
20. What is the overall message of the poem?
- A. The hardships of winter
  - B. The joy of being warm and cosy
  - C. The difficulties of being a bear
  - D. The beauty of nature

Answers only

1. B
2. A
3. B
4. B
5. B
6. C
7. C
8. C
9. A
10. B
11. D
12. B
13. A
14. B
15. B
16. D
17. B
18. C
19. D
20. B

### Answers with explanations

1. B) A bear

Explanation: The speaker imagines being a bear, as mentioned in the first line of the poem.

2. A) Being cold

Explanation: The speaker suggests that as a bear, they wouldn't care if it "froze or snow" (snowed), indicating a lack of concern about the cold.

3. B) AABB

Explanation: The poem follows an AABB rhyme scheme, where the first two lines rhyme with each other and the next two lines rhyme with each other.

4. B) Fur-lined clothing

Explanation: The speaker imagines wearing fur-lined clothing, such as "fur boots," "fur wrap," and "fur cap."

5. B) A fur muffle-ruff

Explanation: The speaker describes wearing a "fur muffle-ruff" to cover their jaws if they were a bear.

6. C) Fur mittens

Explanation: The speaker imagines wearing "brown fur mittens" on their big brown paws.

7. C) The power of imagination

Explanation: The poem is playful and imaginative, as the speaker dreams about being a bear and how comfortable it would be.

8. C) A fur bed

Explanation: The speaker imagines sleeping "all the winter in a big fur bed" if they were a bear.

9. A) Freezing and snowing

Explanation: The poem describes winter weather as "froze" and "snow" (snowed).

10. B) A cap

Explanation: The speaker mentions a "big fur cap" that they would wear on their head.

11. D) The bear's fur

Explanation: The phrase "big brown furry-down" refers to the bear's fur, which covers them and keeps them warm.

12. B) Playful

Explanation: The tone of the poem is playful, as the speaker enjoys imagining what it would be like to be a bear.

13. A) It emphasises the size of the bear

Explanation: The word "big" is used to emphasise the large size of the bear and its fur.

14. B) To illustrate the comfort of being a bear

Explanation: The mention of a "big fur bed" illustrates how comfortable and cosy it would be to sleep like a bear in winter.

15. B) Winter snow

Explanation: The poem refers to winter snow with words like "froze" and "snew."

16. D) Fur shoes

Explanation: The poem mentions "fur boots," "fur knickers," and "fur cap," but not "fur shoes."

17. B) To protect the bear's jaws from the cold

Explanation: The "fur muffle-ruff" is imagined as something to cover and protect the bear's jaws from the cold.

18. C) Brown

Explanation: The poem repeatedly describes the bear's fur as "brown."

19. D) Winter

Explanation: The poem describes freezing and snowy weather, indicating that the season being referred to is winter.

20. B) The joy of being warm and cosy

Explanation: The overall message of the poem is the joy and comfort of being warm and cosy, as imagined by the speaker being a bear in winter.