

# Reading Booklet

## Year 6 Reading Assessment - Poetry



### Throwing a Tree

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## -Thomas Hardy

The two executioners stalk along over the knolls,  
 Bearing two axes with heavy heads shining and wide,  
 And a long limp two-handed saw toothed for cutting great boles,  
 And so they approach the proud tree that bears the death-mark on its side.  
 Jackets doffed they swing axes and chop away just above ground,  
 And the chips fly about and lie white on the moss and fallen leaves;  
 Till a broad deep gash in the bark is hewn all the way round,  
 And one of them tries to hook upward a rope, which at last he achieves.  
 The saw then begins, till the top of the tall giant shivers:  
 The shivers are seen to grow greater with each cut than before:  
 They edge out the saw, tug the rope; but the tree only quivers,  
 And kneeling and sawing again, they step back to try pulling once more.  
 Then, lastly, the living mast sways, further sways: with a shout  
 Job and Ike rush aside. Readied the end of its long staying powers  
 The tree crashes downward: it shakes all its neighbours throughout,  
 And two hundred years' steady growth has been ended in less than two hours.

# Throwing a Tree

**English**

**KS2**

**2016**

# **Year 6 Reading Assessment Throwing a Tree Answer Booklet**

|                      |            |  |              |  |             |  |
|----------------------|------------|--|--------------|--|-------------|--|
| <b>First Name</b>    |            |  |              |  |             |  |
| <b>Middle Name</b>   |            |  |              |  |             |  |
| <b>Last Name</b>     |            |  |              |  |             |  |
| <b>Date of Birth</b> | <b>Day</b> |  | <b>Month</b> |  | <b>Year</b> |  |
| <b>School Name</b>   |            |  |              |  |             |  |
| <b>DfE Number</b>    |            |  |              |  |             |  |

# Year 6 Reading Assessment Poetry

Questions 13 to 25 are about 'Throwing a Tree'

13. What does the word 'stalk' mean and what does it suggest about the tree feller?

14. Circle the word that is closest in meaning to 'doffed':

chopped                      tied                      removed                      swing

15. What evidence is there in the poem that chopping the tree is a difficult task?

16. Order these events from the poem. The first one has been done for you.

An axe is used to chop a broad gash all around the trunk.

The saw is used along with the rope until the tree comes down.

The tree is marked in advance ready for cutting.

A rope is hooked upward.

17. Write the correct tools to match the descriptions in this table.

1 mark

| Tool | Description                 |
|------|-----------------------------|
|      | Heavy head shining and wide |
|      | Long limp two-handed        |

18. How long had the tree been growing for?

1 mark

19. How does the poet try to make the reader feel sorry for the tree? Refer to the text to support your answer.

3 marks

20. What are the names given to the tree fellers?

1 mark

total for  
this page

21. Which of these sentences best summarises the poet's feelings about the tree being chopped down? Tick one.

The poet is celebrating and happy about the event.

The poet is glad the tree was chopped down because it was too old.

The poet seems sorrowful and disappointed that it has happened.

The poet doesn't really mind whether the tree is cut down or not.

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

22. Which of these words or phrases are used to describe the tree? Tick three.

Living mast

☐

Heavy head

☐

Long and limp

☐

Proud

☐

Broad and deep

☐

Tall giant

☐

23. What is meant by the phrase 'it shakes all its neighbours'?

24. How long did the whole process take to chop down the tree?

total for this page

1 mark

1 mark

1 mark

1 mark

Look at the line: 'And so they approach the proud tree that bears the death-mark'.

2 marks

25. Explain the meaning of the words 'bears' and 'death-mark' in this sentence.

| Word       | Meaning |
|------------|---------|
| bears      |         |
| death-mark |         |

End of questions about '*Throwing a Tree*'

\*\*END OF TEST\*\*

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