

English 3201/3281
Poetry Review
Adapted from NL Public Exam, June 2005
The Tables Turned
By William Wordsworth

Up! Up! my friend, and quit your books;
Or surely you'll grow double:
Up! Up! my friend, and clear your looks; -
Why all this toil and trouble?

5 The sun, above the mountain's head,
A freshening lustre mellow
Through all the long, green fields has spread,
His first sweet evening yellow.

10 Books! 'tis a dull and endless strife:
Come, hear the woodland linnet*
How sweet his music! on my life,
There's more of wisdom in it.

15 And hark! how blithe** the throstle*** sings!
He, too, is no mean preacher:
Come forth into the light of things,
Let Nature be your teacher.

20 She has a world of ready wealth,
Our minds and hearts to bless, -
Spontaneous wisdom breathed by health,
Truth breathed by cheerfulness.

 One impulse from a vernal**** wood
May teach you more of man,
Of moral evil and of good,
Than all the sages***** can.

25 Sweet is the lore which Nature brings;
Our meddling intellect
Misshapes the beauteous forms of things,
We murder to dissect.

30 Enough of Science and of Art;
Close up those barren leaves;
Come forth, and bring with you a heart
That watches and receives.

*linnet: a songbird

** blithe: cheerful

***throstle: a literary word for the song thrush

****vernal: springtime

*****sages: wise men

1. On what does the "you" referred to in the poem spend too much time?

- (A) appearance
- (B) play
- (C) study
- (D) work

2. To what does "barren leaves" (line 30) refer?

- (A) books
- (B) grass
- (C) table
- (D) trees

3. What words best describe the tone of "The Tables Turned"?

- (A) excited and thoughtful
- (B) light hearted and curious
- (C) serious and commanding
- (D) unsure and uneasy

4. What is emphasized in line 4, "Why all this toil and trouble" ?

- (A) appearance of the friend
- (B) beauty of nature
- (C) disbelief of the speaker
- (D) evil of the sages

5. What is meant by the phrase, "We murder to dissect" (line 28)?

- (A) People are killed for the purpose of causing pain.
- (B) People enjoy destroying and polluting nature.
- (C) People hurt themselves by choosing books over nature.
- (D) People tear things apart in the name of study or research

