

***I, Icarus***

by : Alden Nowlan

- There was a time when I could fly. I swear it.  
Perhaps, if I think hard for a moment, I can even tell you the year.  
My room was on the ground floor at the rear of the house.  
My bed faced a window.
- (5) Night after night I lay on my bed and willed myself to fly.  
It was hard work, I can tell you.  
Sometimes I lay perfectly still for an hour before I felt  
my body rising from the bed.
- (10) I rose slowly, slowly until I floated three or four feet  
above the floor.  
Then, with a kind of swimming motion, I propelled myself  
toward the window.  
Outside, I rose higher and higher, above the pasture fence,  
above the clothesline, above the dark, haunted trees
- (15) beyond the pasture.  
And, all the time, I heard the music of flutes.  
It seemed the wind made this music.  
And sometimes there were voices singing.

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Icarus:

King Minos of Crete had Daedalus design a labyrinth to house his monster - the Minotaur. Daedalus was the only one who knew the secret of the labyrinth. He and his son were not permitted to leave the island of Crete. They escaped from the island of Crete using wings of wax and bird feathers. Icarus disregarded his father's warning not to fly too close to the sun, his wings melted, and he fell into the sea and drowned.

**1. What poetic form has Alden Nowlan used to develop this poem?**

- (A) ballad
- (B) blank verse
- (C) free verse
- (D) sonnet

**2. What literary device is exemplified by the title?**

- (A) allusion
- (B) apostrophe
- (C) assonance
- (D) atmosphere

**3. Which best describes the philosophy of the speaker in the poem?**

- (A) He believes sleep causes nightmares.
- (B) He imagines he flies above the trees.
- (C) He stays grounded in reality.
- (D) He swims toward the window.

**4. Line 13 is an example of what device?**

- (A) compound sentence
- (B) parallel structure
- (C) process analysis
- (D) simple sentence

**5. Which word best describes the tone of the poem?**

- (A) angry
- (B) cheerful
- (C) depressed
- (D) reflective

**6. What is the theme of the poem?**

- (A) Anger creates hostility.
- (B) Fear creates flight or escape.
- (C) Idealism and determination create hope for the future.
- (D) Negativity and bitterness develop an indifference towards the future.

7. With reference to 2 specific examples, explain how the poet uses imagery to convey a particular tone.

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