

Name _____ Date _____

“Simile: Willow and Ginkgo” by Eve Merriam

Selection Test

Critical Reading

On the line, write the letter of the best answer.

- _____ 1. Which of the following is the best paraphrase of these lines from “simile: Willow and Ginkgo”?
- The willow’s music is like a soprano, / delicate and thin.
- a. When the wind blows through a willow it makes a high-pitched sound, like a soprano.
 - b. The branches of the willow tree are skinny.
 - c. The willow is dainty and refined.
 - d. The willow is weak and sickly.
- _____ 2. Which of the following lines from “Simile: Willow and Ginkgo” contains a simile?
- a. Wherever it grows, there is green and gold and fair.
 - b. The willow dips to the water.
 - c. The ginkgo forces its way through gray concrete;
 - d. Like a city child, it grows up in the street.
- _____ 3. Which of the following best explains the comparison being made in these lines from “Simile: Willow and Ginkgo”?
- The willow is like an etching, / Fine-lined against the sky. / The ginkgo is like a crude sketch, / Hardly worthy to be signed.
- a. The willow is much taller than the ginkgo.
 - b. The willow is more difficult to draw than the ginkgo.
 - c. The poet compares a picture of the willow with a picture of the ginkgo.
 - d. The poet compares the willow’s elegant qualities to the ginkgo’s more ordinary appearance.
- _____ 4. Which of the following statements best describes the trees in “Simile: Willow and Ginkgo”?
- a. The willow is delicate and beautiful, while the ginkgo is tough and strong.
 - b. The willow is rough and robust, while the ginkgo is fragile and dainty.
 - c. The willow and the ginkgo are very much alike.
 - d. The willow is shorter than the ginkgo.

- _____ 5. Which What is the meaning of the italicized word in this sentence.
The ginkgo's tune is like a *chorus*.
- the back of a stage
 - the last line of a song
 - the part of a song sung by many voices at once
 - a large group of people singing together
- _____ 6. Which of the following would be an appropriate response to "Simile: Willow and Ginkgo"?
- I agree that willows are beautiful trees.
 - We don't have any ginkgos in our yard.
 - Willows are good shade trees.
 - "Ginkgo" is a funny name.
- _____ 7. In "Simile: Willow and Ginkgo", the speaker's "heart goes to the ginkgo" because
- unlike most people, the speaker thinks the ginkgo is a prettier tree
 - the speaker has grown up among ginkgos
 - the speaker thinks that the willow is too delicate
 - the speaker admires and cherishes many of the ginkgo's qualities
- _____ 8. In "Simile: Willow and Ginkgo", which line uses a simile?
- The willow dips to the water,
 - My eyes feast upon the willow,
 - The willow is like an etching,
 - Thrust against the metal sky,