

Beyond the Snow Belt

by Mary Oliver

1 Over the local stations, one by one,
Announcers list disasters like dark poems
That always happen in the skull of winter.
But once again the storm has passed us by:
5 Lovely and moderate, the snow lies down
While shouting children hurry back to play,
And scarved and smiling citizens once more
Sweep down their easy paths of pride and welcome.

And what else might we do? Let us be truthful.

10 Two counties north the storm has taken lives.
Two counties north, to us, is far away,—
A land of trees, a wing upon a map,
A wild place never visited,—so we
Forget with ease each far mortality.

15 Peacefully from our frozen yards we watch
Our children running on the mild white hills.
This is the landscape that we understand,—
And till the principle of things takes root,
How shall examples move us from our calm?

20 I do not say that it is not a fault.
I only say, except as we have loved,
All news arrives as from a distant land.

PART B: POETRY

Total Value: 20 marks

Suggested Time: 25 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the poem “Beyond the Snow Belt” on page 1 in the **Readings Booklet**. Select the **best** answer for each question and record your choice on the Response Form provided.

14. Line 2, “Announcers list disasters like dark poems,” is an example of
- A. simile.
 - B. metaphor.
 - C. apostrophe.
 - D. personification.
15. The phrase “the skull of winter” (line 3) suggests a
- A. fear of storms.
 - B. symbol of death.
 - C. dislike of the cold.
 - D. foreshadowing of spring.
16. Line 7, “And scarved and smiling citizens once more,” contains an example of the sound device
- A. alliteration.
 - B. dissonance.
 - C. onomatopoeia.
 - D. internal rhyme.
17. “And what else might we do?” (line 9) is an example of
- A. feigned confusion.
 - B. a whimsical query.
 - C. a rhetorical question.
 - D. apparent contradiction.
18. Line 10 contains an example of
- A. jargon.
 - B. hyperbole.
 - C. oxymoron.
 - D. euphemism.

19. Stanza 2 suggests that the fatalities during the storm are of little concern because
- A. they happened in a distant place.
 - B. they occurred in an unpopulated county.
 - C. the speaker was not aware of the deaths.
 - D. the deaths were to be expected in a wild place.
20. Stanza 3 suggests that the speaker is
- A. angry.
 - B. fearful.
 - C. wistful.
 - D. accepting.
21. The characteristics of the poem are predominantly those of
- A. a ballad.
 - B. a sonnet.
 - C. free verse.
 - D. blank verse.

