

## November Sun

by Dale Zieroth

1 The November sun can't find its way  
to me  
It slants around  
and dives  
5 into the ground, the white crusty  
snow and dirt  
It leaps off a house  
horizon and pell-mells<sup>1</sup> in  
through the long hall window  
10 but I have already gone It can't  
take me in its arms like a summer sun  
It can't draw me down into the grasses  
tossed by the creek  
It is fiercely forgetting  
15 where I am, turning its hot face  
to the bodies of the South The days  
shorten and stall,  
everyone piled up in the house  
and all our baubles  
20 do not turn the dark around One morning  
from under your layers,  
brush open the curtain to see  
frost works, and far off  
the winter sun  
25 Hearts grow stiff here  
or die hardy Afternoons spent  
catching what you can  
on your face At night  
never once does the name Canada  
30 appear in your dreams—but the country  
is tipping away, pulling  
down and you are going with it  
November's sun is cold  
and the earth grows colder

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<sup>1</sup> *pell-mell*: boldly and without hesitation

**PART B: POETRY**

**Total Value: 20 marks**

**Suggested Time: 25 minutes**

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

14. In line 19, the word “baubles” suggests
- A. stars.
  - B. icicles.
  - C. electric lights.
  - D. Christmas decorations.
15. From line 20, there is a shift in
- A. voice.
  - B. attitude.
  - C. verb tense.
  - D. point of view.
16. Lines 25 and 26, “Hearts grow stiff here / or die hardy” imply
- A. life slows down in winter.
  - B. cold air damages the heart.
  - C. people must be tough to survive.
  - D. animals are beginning hibernation.
17. In lines 30 and 31, the phrase, “but the country / is tipping away”, probably refers to
- A. strong winds.
  - B. the tilt of the Earth’s axis.
  - C. Canada’s mountainous terrain.
  - D. the build-up of snow as winter approaches.
18. Line 33, “November’s sun is cold”, contains an example of
- A. allusion.
  - B. paradox.
  - C. metaphor.
  - D. understatement.

19. The form of the poem is
- A. sonnet.
  - B. free verse.
  - C. blank verse.
  - D. ballad stanza.
20. The poem would best be described as
- A. didactic.
  - B. dramatic.
  - C. narrative.
  - D. descriptive.
21. In lines 29 and 30, the phrase, “never once does the name Canada / appear in your dreams”, suggests that the people would
- A. forget their origins.
  - B. be too cold to dream.
  - C. dream of warmer places.
  - D. be ignorant of geography.



