

Name: _____

Aging Poems

Read the figurative language definitions below. Label what figurative language is being used in the lines of the poems. Don't forget to answer the questions in the box regarding theme.

Simile: a comparison using like or as

Metaphor: a comparison that doesn't use like or as (something IS something else)

Hyperbole: an exaggeration

Personification: giving inanimate objects human characteristics

Allusion: (can you spot it?) a reference to something from the past (literature, mythological characters, bible, historical events, etc.)

Nothing Gold Can Stay by Robert Frost

Nature's first green is gold, _____

Her hardest hue to hold. _____

Her early leaf's a flower; _____

But only so an hour. _____

Then leaf subsides to leaf,

So Eden sank to grief, _____

So dawn goes down to day

Nothing gold can stay. _____

Which one of the statements best represents the **overall** theme of the poem, "Nothing Gold Can Stay"?

- Gold leaves only last for a short amount of time.
- Nature, while ever-changing, is always beautiful.
- Childhood is a precious, but fleeting time in a person's life.
- Childhood is like the autumn season.

On Turning Ten by Billy Collins

The whole idea of it makes me feel
like I'm coming down with something, _____
something worse than any stomach ache
or the headaches I get from reading in bad light--
a kind of measles of the spirit, _____
a mumps of the psyche, _____
a disfiguring chicken pox of the soul. _____

You tell me it is too early to be looking back,
but that is because you have forgotten
the perfect simplicity of being one
and the beautiful complexity introduced by two.
But I can lie on my bed and remember every digit.
At four I was an Arabian wizard. _____

I could make myself invisible
by drinking a glass of milk a certain way. _____
At seven I was a soldier, at nine a prince. _____

But now I am mostly at the window
watching the late afternoon light.
Back then it never fell so solemnly
against the side of my tree house,
and my bicycle never leaned against the garage
as it does today,
all the dark blue speed drained out of it. _____

This is the beginning of sadness, I say to myself,
as I walk through the universe in my sneakers. _____
It is time to say good-bye to my imaginary friends,
time to turn the first big number.
It seems only yesterday I used to believe
there was nothing under my skin but light.
If you cut me I could shine. _____
But now when I fall upon the sidewalks of life, _____
I skin my knees. I bleed.

Create a one sentence theme statement that reflects the author's overall message in "On Turning Ten."
