

Deepening Understanding

UKS2 Poem Mark Scheme

This set of questions is based upon the poem 'My Grandma's Bonsai Tree' by Ben Mayoh.

Q1

How do you think Grandma felt when she was bought a bonsai tree for her birthday?

1 mark - for a relevant emotion

E.g. annoyed, disappointed, shocked, happy or pleased

2 marks - for an emotion with supporting evidence

E.g. Annoyed because she said she would kill it.

Happy because she displayed it proudly in her kitchen.

2 Marks

Q2

Copy two phrases from the poem that portray the bonsai tree as healthy.

1 mark for each relevant phrase from the text. Do not accept whole sentences.

E.g. leaves of green

flourished well

2 Marks

Q3

...it bore leaves of green

What is meant by the word bore?

1 mark - for a relevant definition in context with the poem.

E.g. Bore means showed/displayed green leaves

1 Mark



Q4

When did Grandma begin to worry about the bonsai tree's condition? Explain how you know using evidence.

1 mark for mention of the correct time - week three

2 marks for mentioning of the correct time with evidence

E.g. Week three because Grandma saw the first leaf go brown
When she started to frown during week three.

2 Marks

Q5

...Week four saw Bonsai wither

Circle the word closest in meaning to the word wither.

suffer

thrive

deteriorate

burn

1 Mark

Q6

...leaves were drifting to the pot

What does drifting suggest about the leaves' movement?

1 mark - for relating to the speed

e.g. slowly or gradually

1 mark - for relation to how

E.g. Carried by the air

They accumulate into a pile

Lack of control - randomness

2 Marks



Q7

The Grandson showed hope throughout the poem. What evidence is there to suggest this?

1 mark - for any of these points (maximum of 2 marks)

E.g. He bought her the bonsai tree despite his Grandma's reservations that she would kill it.

He says, "Will it grow fruit?"

"Would there be a miracle survival?" suggests that he is staying positive.

2 Marks

Q8

Synonyms have been used throughout the poem on the 3rd line of each verse. What is the effect of their use?

1 mark - use of synonyms portrays the fact that she told her Grandson multiple times in a range of different ways that she would kill bonsai tree.

1 Mark

Q9

Do you think that the Grandson wishes he had listened to his Grandma?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Maybe ☐

1 mark should be awarded for a range of responses:

Yes - The fact that she said she would kill it and she did.

No - She still had joy from it as it was proudly displayed in her kitchen and the fact that she still 'cradles' the bonsai tree's blue pot.

Maybe - A combination of the two answers above.

1 Mark



Q10

Why does Grandma cradle the blue bonsai tree pot?
Explain your answer fully referring to the text.

1 mark for making a relevant point unsupported by evidence

E.g. She was fond of the bonsai tree

She wants to remember it.

It was a present.

2 marks for making a point with evidence from the text
(or two of the above points)

E.g. She was fond of the bonsai tree as she proudly displayed it in her kitchen.

She wants to remember the bonsai tree because at the end of the poem (when she decomposes it) she shed a tear - this shows she didn't want to part with it.

3 marks are for two or more points made with evidence from the text.

3 Marks

Q11

Why did the author use the phrase 'shadow of his past' to describe the bonsai tree? Explain fully using evidence.

1 mark for understanding that the bonsai tree wasn't what it used to be like.

2 marks for acknowledging the fact that the bonsai tree had changed since it was purchased and an explanation of what it was like at the beginning or end by referring to the text.

E.g. The bonsai tree was not the same as it used to be as withered and lost all of its leaves.

The bonsai tree has changed: it no longer bears flourishing green leaves.

3 marks for an in-depth answer describing fully the contrast in its condition from the beginning to the end of the poem. Evidence from the text supports the claims made.

E.g. 'Shadow of its past' suggests the bonsai tree is not in the condition that it used to be. It was known for its flourishing, green leaves which later started to turn brown and wither. It also struck a lonely figure - this suggests that it had nothing but its trunk and branches left to show.

