

Letter from Brooklyn

by Jacob Scheier

I can already see how this will end.
How I will grow tired of the bridge's
steep incline, and the absent-minded tourists
wandering into the bicycle path.
5 The weather will turn cold.
But that all happens later.
For now it is the early edge of fall,
leaves green still while the air narrows,
is slightly crisp, almost grazing
10 the hair of my arm like a passing stranger,
as though the air has been forced into intimacy
by the brevity¹ of daylight.
But when it starts darkening at 4,
this closeness, I know, will be a felt distance,
15 like someone drawing your attention
to their lack of intimacy.
These days I am still walking at a cathedral² pace
beneath the branches bending across avenues,
brownstones like rows of lived-in chapels,³
20 like a pop-up picture book I could have had as a child,
but didn't. How Brooklyn makes me nostalgic⁴
for the moment I am walking inside of.
These late afternoons filled
with a loneliness that makes me feel
25 distinctly myself, and an awareness
of how rare that is.

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¹**brevity:** briefness

²**cathedral:** meditative

³**chapels:** private places of prayer or worship

⁴**nostalgic:** yearning for the past

18. How does the structure of the poem affect the poem’s meaning?
- E. The lack of a rhyming pattern suggests that the beauty of each passing day is unique.
 - F. The lengths of the sentences represent the complexity of the thoughts being represented.
 - G. The use of complete sentences implies the speaker’s appreciation for the clear beginning and ending of each season.
 - H. The single long stanza reflects the continuous flow of the speaker’s thoughts.
19. Which lines support the idea that a change in the weather will lessen the speaker’s appreciation for the city?
- A. “as though the air has been forced into intimacy / by the brevity of daylight.” (lines 11–12)
 - B. “But when it starts darkening at 4, / this closeness, I know, will be a felt distance,” (lines 13–14)
 - C. “like someone drawing your attention / to their lack of intimacy.” (lines 15–16)
 - D. “These days I am still walking . . . / beneath the branches bending across avenues,” (lines 17–18)
20. Read lines 5–6 from the poem.

**The weather will turn cold.
But that all happens later.**

How do the lines develop a central theme of the poem?

- E. They highlight a contrast between the different seasons.
- F. They show the sequence of the changes that are expected to occur.
- G. They warn about a problem that requires thoughtful preparation.
- H. They emphasize the importance of valuing the present.

21. Read lines 7–9 from the poem.

**For now it is the early edge of fall,
leaves green still while the air narrows,
is slightly crisp,**

The word choice in the lines helps convey the speaker’s belief that

- A. the beauty of the current season should still be appreciated.
- B. the changes in the weather signify the end of the most pleasant season.
- C. the transition from one season to another happens swiftly and without warning.
- D. the change in the weather is so subtle that people rarely observe or feel it.

22. The details in lines 9–12 convey a central idea of the poem by

- E. showing that the cool weather makes the speaker reflect more deeply on life.
- F. suggesting that the speaker feels uncomfortable with what the coming weather signifies.
- G. implying that the sensations the speaker experiences during the fall season are fleeting.
- H. suggesting that the thought of fall approaching increases the loneliness the speaker feels.

23. Which idea does the comparison of the brownstone houses to “a pop-up picture book I could have had as a child, / but didn’t” in lines 20–21 convey?

- A. It reveals that some people are still influenced by powerful images from childhood.
- B. It indicates that the neighborhood the speaker is walking through is charming and appealing.
- C. It suggests that the speaker has wanted to live in the neighborhood since childhood.
- D. It suggests that people often experience lingering regret from their past.

24. Read these lines from the poem.

I can already see how this will end. (line 1)

**How Brooklyn makes me nostalgic
for the moment I am walking inside of.** (lines 21–22)

The lines develop a central idea of the poem by

- E. suggesting the speaker’s desire to find a way to break free from the repetitive pattern of daily life.
 - F. revealing the speaker’s feelings of disappointment over the predictable change in season.
 - G. emphasizing the speaker’s awareness of the future significance of the present moment in the setting.
 - H. showing the speaker’s anticipation of specific emotions caused by an intimate knowledge of the setting.
25. The speaker’s thoughts throughout the poem develop a theme by showing that
- A. although people may hold expectations for the future, some people long for present experiences while they are still happening.
 - B. though people come from different places, most people feel drawn to the special charm a city holds.
 - C. although people can make decisions about their life, there will always be some things beyond their control.
 - D. though general expectations exist, people have no way of knowing what a given day will actually bring.
26. The poet develops the speaker’s point of view by
- E. providing details about the speaker’s longing to be in a different place.
 - F. showing the speaker’s sense of unease about the passing seasons.
 - G. including details about the speaker’s hope that life will remain unchanged.
 - H. showing the speaker’s desire to treasure and appreciate the changes taking place.