

Snowy Mountains

by John Gould Fletcher

- Higher and still more high,
Palaces made for cloud,
Above the dingy city-roofs
Blue-white like angels with broad wings,
5 Pillars of the sky at rest
The mountains from the great plateau
Uprise.
- But the world heeds them not;
They have been here now for too long a time.
10 The world makes war on them,
Tunnels their granite cliffs,
Splits down their shining sides,
Plasters their cliffs with soap-advertisements,
Destroys the lonely fragments of their peace.
- 15 Vaster and still more vast,
Peak after peak, pile after pile,
Wilderness still untamed,
To which the future is as was the past,
Barrier spread by Gods,
20 Sunning their shining foreheads,
Barrier broken down by those who do not need
The joy of time-resisting storm-worn stone,
The mountains swing along
The south horizon of the sky;
25 Welcoming with wide floors of blue-green ice
The mists that dance and drive before the sun.

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41. The description in the first stanza (lines 1–7) helps establish a central idea of the poem by
- A. comparing the length of time the mountains have existed with the length of time the city has existed.
 - B. contrasting the grandeur of the mountains with the structures in the city below them.
 - C. implying that the mountains are a source of inspiration to the people in the city below.
 - D. suggesting that the mountains are larger than the people in the city realize.

42. Read line 5 from the poem.

Pillars of the sky at rest

The line helps develop the theme of the poem by suggesting that the mountains

- E. serve a noble and supportive purpose in the world.
 - F. attract the clouds with their strength and permanence.
 - G. remain untamed through the ages.
 - H. provide protection for the people.
43. How does isolating the word “Uprise” in line 7 affect the meaning of the poem?
- A. It creates a contrast between the great plateau and the city buildings.
 - B. It reveals the similarity between the tall buildings in the city and the tall mountains on the horizon.
 - C. It creates a vision of the region before people developed the land.
 - D. It emphasizes that the mountains dominate the landscape.
44. Which line from the poem **best** supports the idea that people have sacrificed priceless natural beauty in order to make a profit?
- E. “Above the dingy city-roofs” (line 3)
 - F. “The world makes war on them,” (line 10)
 - G. “Tunnels their granite cliffs,” (line 11)
 - H. “Plasters their cliffs with soap-advertisements,” (line 13)

45. How does the poet develop the speaker's point of view in the second stanza (lines 8–14)?
- A. by describing images of the mountains' awe-inspiring size and strength
 - B. by illustrating the differences among the various ways humans can affect the natural environment
 - C. by criticizing society for taking careless, harmful courses of action against nature
 - D. by demonstrating how the mountains and the people are able to benefit from each other
46. Which detail from the poem reflects the speaker's view that people often fail to appreciate what is familiar?
- E. "The mountains from the great plateau" (line 6)
 - F. "They have been here now for too long a time." (line 9)
 - G. "Splits down their shining sides," (line 12)
 - H. "To which the future is as was the past," (line 18)
47. Read lines 21–22 from the poem.

**Barrier broken down by those who do not need
The joy of time-resisting storm-worn stone,**

How do the lines help convey the speaker's point of view?

- A. They suggest that the speaker wants to remove the obstacles that prevent others from experiencing the wonders of nature.
- B. They reveal the speaker's opinion that some people are too busy to appreciate natural beauty.
- C. They reflect the speaker's dismay that people destroy the natural landscape without understanding the ramifications of their actions.
- D. They explain that the speaker is confident that nature will never be fully destroyed by people.

48. How do the details in the third stanza (lines 15–26) **most** contribute to the development of a theme of the poem?

- E. by reflecting nature’s capacity to resist change
- F. by showing that nature is capable of influencing human will
- G. by exposing how a lack of awareness leads to nature’s ruin
- H. by explaining why people must respect nature

49. Read lines 23–26 from the poem.

**The mountains swing along
The south horizon of the sky;
Welcoming with wide floors of blue-green ice
The mists that dance and drive before the sun.**

The personification in these concluding lines of the poem suggests that the mountains are

- A. gracious hosts who are untroubled by the actions of people.
- B. unaware of their coming destruction.
- C. lively entertainers who are amused by the everyday concerns of people.
- D. too proud to reveal their pain.