

Poetry Pretest/Posttest

Read the poem below and answer the following questions to the best of your ability.

Once you have read the poem, number the stanzas and the lines. Then answer the questions attached.

I'm in a Rotten Mood!

By Jack Prelutsky

From The New Kid on the Block

I'm in a rotten mood today,
a really rotten mood today,
I'm feeling cross,
I'm feeling mean,
I'm jumpy as a jumping bean,
I have an awful attitude--
I'M IN A ROTTEN MOOD!

I'm in a rotten mood today,
a really rotten mood today,
I'm in a snit,
I'm in a stew,
there's nothing that I care to do
but sit all by myself and brood--
I'M IN A ROTTEN MOOD!

I'm in a rotten mood today,
a really rotten mood today,
you'd better stay away from me,
I'm just a lump of misery,
I'm feeling absolutely rude--
I'M IN A ROTTEN MOOD!

1. What is the poem mostly about?

2. What is the rhyme scheme of the first stanza?

- a. AA, B, CC, DD
- b. AA, BB, CC
- c. ABAC

3. What does the word “brood” mean in line 13?

- a. Think deeply about something that makes you unhappy
- b. A group of animals
- c. Sweep the floor
- d. Cry about people teasing you

4. Using the dictionary entry above, what is the meaning of the word “stew” in line 10?

Stew: st(y)oo/

noun

1. a dish of meat and vegetables cooked slowly in liquid in a closed dish or pan.

2. a state of great anxiety or agitation.

verb

3. cook or be cooked slowly in liquid in a closed dish or pan.

- a. Definition 1
- b. Definition 2
- c. Definition 3

5. The structure of the poem helps the reader know that it is

- a. Lyrical
- b. Free verse

6. What quadrant of the mood meter is the narrator in?

- a. Green
- b. Yellow
- c. Blue
- d. Red

7. What words in the poem make you think the narrator is in that quadrant?

8. Why is the last line of each stanza in all capitals?

9. Read the line below:

I'm jumpy as a jumping bean

What does this simile mean?

- a. The narrator is energetic
 - b. The narrator is feeling on edge
 - c. The narrator likes to jump
 - d. The narrator likes beans
10. Which of the following lines contains a metaphor?
- a. Line 2
 - b. Line 10
 - c. Line 18
 - d. Line 20