



the extract, the appreciation, and the devices that back it up



The six poems

Cherry Tree

Ruskin Bond, a child watches a tree he planted grow, year by year

The Sower

Victor Hugo, a farmer sowing seed at dusk, read as a figure of quiet dignity

There is Another Sky

Emily Dickinson, a sonnet written to cheer a brother, built around a brighter garden

Upon Westminster Bridge

William Wordsworth, a sonnet on a city seen calm and beautiful at dawn

Nose versus Eyes

William Cowper, a mock trial settling which sense the spectacles belong to

The Planners

Boey Kim Cheng, a city built too perfectly, at the cost of its own memory

Poetry Extract & Activities, what the extract asks

- an extract question tests the same skills as prose : complete a line, state a meaning, paraphrase
- a choose the correct alternative question tests inference, wrong options usually restate the line too literally
- picking lines for a table (object plus feeling, or sound plus effect) rewards a slow read
- a line rewritten in your own words should keep the poem's meaning, not just swap synonyms

Reading a poem before answering

- read a poem aloud once in full before any question, rhythm often carries meaning prose misses
- note who speaks and who is addressed: There is Another Sky, a letter to a brother
- underline the shift: gloom to hope, praise to caution, most of these six poems turn once
- a glossed margin word (serene, prithee, august) is there because the question will likely use it

Poetic Appreciation, the six points expected



- about the poem, poet and title: one or two lines placing the poem and its writer
- theme: the poem's central idea, stated plainly, not the story it tells
- poetic devices, language and style: the figures of speech used and the effect they create
- special features or novelties: what marks the poem out, a sonnet form, unusual rhyme, mock trial
- values or message: what the poem leaves the reader with
- your opinion: a genuine personal response to the poem, kept brief

