

Giants

How would you like it –
Supposing that you were a snail,
And your eyes grew out on threads,
Gentle, and small, and frail –
If an enormous creature,
Reaching almost up to the distant skies,
Leaned down, and with his great finger touched
Your eyes
Just for the fun
Of seeing you snatch them suddenly in
And cower, quivering back
Into your pitiful shell, so brittle and thin?
Would you think it was fun then?
Would you think it was fun?

And how would you like it,
Supposing you were a frog,
An emerald scrap with a pale, trembling throat
In a cool and shadowed bog,
If a tremendous monster,
Tall, tall, so that his head seemed lost in the mist,
Leaned over, and clutched you up in his great fist
Just for the joy
Of watching you jump, scramble, tumble, fall,
In graceless, shivering dread,
Back into the trampled reeds that were grown so tall?
Would you think it a joy then?
Would you think it a joy?

Lydia Pender

2.

1. (a) What does the 'giant' do to frighten the snail?

1 mark

(b) What does the 'giant' do to frighten the frog?

1 mark

2. *Gentle, and small, and frail*

Which part of the snail do these words describe?

Circle the part of the snail in the picture below.



1 mark

3. *Gentle, and small, and frail.*

How do these words make the reader feel about the snail?

1 mark

4. How does the snail behave when it is afraid?

Give **two** ways.

1. _____

2. _____

1 mark

5. *Into your pitiful shell, so brittle and thin*

In this line, the word brittle is closest in meaning to...

Tick **one**.

shiny.

soft.

delicate.

rough.

1 mark

6. Explain **two** things that the words *emerald scrap* suggest about the frog.

2 marks

7. What is the *tremendous monster*?

1 mark

8. *Just for the joy
Of watching you jump, scramble, tumble, fall*

Find and copy two more words from the poem that show that the frog was frightened.

1. _____

2. _____

1 mark

9. What is the main message of the poem?

Tick **one**.

People can learn a lot from holding small creatures.

People should think about how their actions affect others.

People are much bigger than frogs and snails.

People should overcome their fear of nature.

1 mark

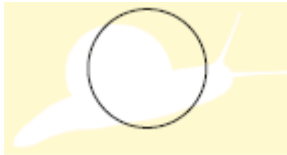
Mark schemes

2. 1. (a) **Award 1 mark** for reference to touching the snail's threads / stalks / eyes. **1 mark**
- (b) **Award 1 mark** for reference to picking the frog up / clutching it in his fist. **1 mark**

2. **Award 1 mark** for answers where the pupil has circled one or both eyes, or eyes and eye stalks on the image of the snail, e.g.



Do not accept answers where the pupil has not circled the eyes, or where more than just the eyes (and stalks) are circled, e.g.



1 mark

3. **Award 1 mark** for answers that refer to concern / empathy, e.g.

- *sorry for it*
- *sympathy*
- *worried about it*
- *you'd want to protect it.*

Also accept answers that recognise the snail is being treated unfairly, e.g.

- *angry for it*
- *upset about what's happening to it.*

Do not accept answers that refer to the snail rather than the reader's feelings, e.g.

- *it's got a thin shell*
- *it's really delicate.*

1 mark

4. **Award 1 mark** for **two** of the following acceptable points:

1. (the speed or urgency with which) it retracts its eyes, e.g.
 - *it snatches its eyes back in.*
2. (the speed or urgency with which) it goes into its shell, e.g.
 - *it quickly disappears into its shell*
 - *it goes into its shell.*
3. it cowers
4. it quivers.

1 mark

5. **Award 1 mark** for the correct option ticked.

- shiny.
- soft.
- delicate.
- rough.

1 mark

6. **Award 2 marks** for responses that interpret **both** emerald and scrap:

Acceptable points for **emerald**:

1. green
2. high value
3. sparkling / shiny

Acceptable points for **scrap**:

4. insignificance or smallness
5. fragility
6. worthless / disposable / rubbish, e.g.
 - *It shows that the frog is like a precious stone, but it's like a scrap of rubbish too . [AP2, AP6]*
 - *Emerald tells us that the frog is green and scrap makes us realise that it is tiny and unimportant. [AP1, AP4]*
 - *It's green and it's small . [minimal AP1, AP4]*

Award 1 mark for an interpretation of **either** emerald **or** scrap from one or more of the acceptable points, e.g.

- *Emerald scrap reminds us that the frog is insignificant.* [AP4]
- *It means the frog is little and worth nothing.* [AP4, AP6]
- *That it is a shimmery green.* [AP3, AP1]

Do not accept answers that repeat the idea that this expression describes the frog or that are vague / general, e.g.

- *It puts a clear picture in our minds*
- *It tells us what the frog looks like*
- *It means the frog is pretty / handsome / gross / horrible / ugly.*

2 marks

7. **Award 1 mark** for reference to the tremendous monster being a human.

Do not accept: *It is a giant.*

1 mark

8. **Award 1 mark** for **two** of the following acceptable points:

1. *trembling (throat)*
2. *shivering*
3. *dread.*

1 mark

9. **Award 1 mark** for the correct option ticked.

- People can learn a lot from holding small creatures.
- People should think about how their actions affect others.
- People are much bigger than frogs and snails.
- People should overcome their fear of nature.

1 mark