The Snowbird’s Song

By Francis C. Woodworth

The ground was all covered with snow one day,
And two little sisters were busy at play,
When a snowbird was sitting close by on a tree,
And merrily singing his chick-a-dee-dee,

Chick-a-dee-dee, chick-a-dee-dee,
And merrily singing his chick-a-dee-dee.

He had not been singing that tune very long,
Ere Emily heard him, so loud was his song:

"Oh, sister, look out of the window," said she;
"Here's a dear little bird singing chick-a-dee-dee.

"Oh, mother, do get him some stockings and shoes,
And a nice little frock, and a hat if he choose;
I wish he'd come into the parlor and see
How warm we would make him, poor chick-a-dee-dee."

Chick-a-dee-dee, chick-a-dee-dee.
"There is one, my dear child, though I cannot tell who,
Has clothed me already, and warm enough too.
Good morning! Oh, who are so happy as we?"
And away he went singing his chick-a-dee-dee.
Chick-a-dee-dee, chick-a-dee-dee.
1. What is the snowbird singing?
   A “cuckoo, cuckoo”  
   B “chick-a-dee-dee”  
   C “Oh, sister!”  
   D “cheep, cheep, cheep”

2. Which word in the second stanza rhymes with “chick-a-dee-dee”?
   A “tune” (line 7)  
   B “long” (line 7)  
   C “song” (line 8)  
   D “she” (line 9)

3. The snowbird is happy.

   What evidence in the poem supports this conclusion?
   A The snowbird is merrily singing.  
   B The snowbird is sitting on a tree.  
   C Emily hears the snowbird.  
   D Emily wishes the snowbird would come inside.

4. Read these lines from the poem:

   He had not been singing that tune very long,  
   Ere Emily heard him, so loud was his song:  
   "Oh, sister, look out of the window," said she;  
   "Here's a dear little bird singing chick-a-dee-dee."
"Oh, mother, do get him some stockings and shoes,
And a nice little frock, and a hat if he choose;
I wish he'd come into the parlor and see
How warm we would make him, poor chick-a-dee-dee."

Based on these lines, what has Emily concluded about the snowbird?

A  The snowbird is evil.
B  The snowbird is scared.
C  The snowbird is cold.
D  The snowbird is friendly.

5. What is this poem mostly about?

A  a game that two sisters are playing one winter day
B  the song of a snowbird on a snowy day
C  the type of clothing a snowbird likes to wear
D  where snowbirds usually live during the winter time

6. Why might Emily want the bird to come into the parlor? Use evidence from the poem to support your answer.

7. Who or what might be the speaker of lines 16-18? Support your answer with evidence from the poem.
8. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Emily wants to give the snowbird some clothing ____________ she hears him singing.

A although  
B so  
C before  
D after

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

One snowy day, two little sisters heard a snowbird because it was sitting close by on a tree and singing.

Who? two little sisters

What? _________________________________________________________________________

Why? __________________________________________________________________________

When? __________________________________________________________________________


Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________
1. What is the snowbird singing?

   A  “cuckoo, cuckoo”
   B  “chick-a-dee-dee”
   C  “Oh, sister!”
   D  “cheep, cheep, cheep”

2. Which word in the second stanza rhymes with “chick-a-dee-dee”?

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   What evidence in the poem supports this conclusion?

   A  The snowbird is merrily singing.
   B  The snowbird is sitting on a tree.
   C  Emily hears the snowbird.
   D  Emily wishes the snowbird would come inside.

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   Ere Emily heard him, so loud was his song:
   "Oh, sister, look out of the window," said she;
   "Here's a dear little bird singing chick-a-dee-dee.
   "Oh, mother, do get him some stockings and shoes,
   And a nice little frock, and a hat if he choose;
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   How warm we would make him, poor chick-a-dee-dee."

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5. What is this poem mostly about?

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B the song of a snowbird on a snowy day
C the type of clothing a snowbird likes to wear
D where snowbirds usually live during the wintertime

6. Why might Emily want the bird to come into the parlor? Use evidence from the poem to support your answer.

Suggested answer: Emily wants the bird to come into the parlor because she wants him to feel warm. This is evident because she asks her mother to get the snowbird some clothes, and wishes “he’d come into the parlor and see / How warm we would make him.”

7. Who or what might be the speaker of lines 16-18? Support your answer with evidence from the poem.

Suggested answer: The snowbird might be the speaker of lines 16-18. He states that he is “clothed already,” probably referring to his feathers.

8. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Emily wants to give the snowbird some clothing ____________ she hears him singing.

A although
B so
C before
D after

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

One snowy day, two little sisters heard a snowbird because it was sitting close by on a tree and singing.

Who? two little sisters

What? heard a snowbird

Why? because it was sitting close by on a tree and singing

When? one snowy day


Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.