

## At Grass

---

1. What does the phrase 'at grass' mean? If you don't know or you're not sure think of the possibilities. Make a note of your ideas.
2. Read the poem through and summarise the content (briefly explain what it is about).
3. The first stanza describes how the horses stand and move around in the field. Find three words that might be considered negative and decide why the poet has used them.
4. What sort of impression do we get of the horses' lives from this first stanza?
5. Contrast the mood in the first stanza to that in the second. How is the more exciting, upbeat tone of the second stanza achieved?
6. Why does the beat of the third stanza seem so fast when its rhythm is actually the same as the preceding stanzas?
7. Is the image at the beginning of the fourth stanza pleasant? Explain your decision and why you think the poet has included it.
8. Why do the horses 'shake their heads'?
9. Why has enjambement been used at the end of the fourth stanza?
10. Why do you think the poet writes in the final stanza that the horses 'gallop for what must be joy'?
11. Why do you think the poem finishes with evening and 'only the groom, and groom's boy'?
12. There are a number of military metaphors in the poem. What is the effect of them?
13. Find at least two examples of alliteration and explain its effect.
14. Explore the rhyme and rhythm of the poem and its effect.
15. Why do you think this poem is in the 'identity' section?
16. Which other poems could you compare this one to and how?