

Have you ever wondered how a person who is blind from birth understands the sense of sight? Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow.

The Blind Boy

by Colley Cibber

O say, what is that thing called light,
Which I can ne'er enjoy?
What is the blessing of the sight?
O tell your poor blind boy!

5 You talk of wond'rous things you see,
You say the sun shines bright!
I feel him warm, but how can he
Then make it day or night?

My day or night myself I make,
10 Whene'er I wake or play;
And could I ever keep awake,
It would be always day.

With heavy sighs I often hear
You mourn my hopeless woe;
15 But sure with patience I may bear
A loss I ne'er can know.

Then let not what I cannot have
My cheer of mind destroy.
Thus while I sing, I am a king,
20 Although a poor blind boy!



Objective 2.5.07

1. From whose viewpoint does the author write the poem?
- A A blind boy
 - B A blind boy's father
 - C An objective outsider
 - D The author's personal experience

Objective 2.5.08

2. Which best describes the boy's attitude toward his blindness?
- A Accepting
 - B Angry
 - C Discouraging
 - D Embarrassing

Objective 2.5.08

3. How does the blind boy choose to handle his blindness?
- A He stays awake so he can play.
 - B He asks others to describe what they see.
 - C He dwells on his blindness and dreams of being able to see.
 - D He chooses to be happy rather than mourn for something he can never have.

Objective 2.5.10

4. How does the boy know that others feel sorry for him because he is blind?
- A He tells them to be patient.
 - B He hears their heavy sighs.
 - C They encourage him to sing.
 - D They tell him about wondrous things.

Objective 2.5.12

5. What is the author describing with the phrase cheer of mind?
- A Happiness
 - B Imagination
 - C Noise
 - D Peace

Objective 2.5.13

6. What is the rhyme scheme of the poem's first stanza?
- A aabb
 - B abab
 - C abba
 - D aaba