

“The Lonely Land” Questions

1. What mood is created by the poet’s choice of words such as “bitter”, “ragged” and “broken”?
2. Imagery is words that stimulate pictures in the reader’s mind that appeal to any of the senses – sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. Which of the poet’s words do you think create effective imagery? Why?
3. What does the poet mean by “a beauty of dissonance”?
4. Which words and images in the poem contribute to the impression of nature’s strength? How?
5. In the final stanza, the poet uses the word “strength” twice. Do you think the author has the same meaning for the word both times? What are the meanings of this word?
6. What qualities of human character does the poet define in terms of landscape? Is this truly Canadian? To what extent, if at all, does the statement in the last stanza apply to Canada or most Canadians?