

"The Eagle," "Winter," and "Spring" Analysis Questions

1. "The Eagle" is a fragment, and Tennyson might have intended more to be written. How would you continue the poem?
2. Besides the "azure" blue of the sea and sky, what colors do you see in this poem?
3. From whose perspective is the poem written?
4. If the eagle thought like a person, what would he be thinking? Could you compose a monologue of his impressions?
5. Does this poem have any kind of "moral" or ethical lesson? Does poetry need to have some theme or lesson to impart?
6. How does gender play out in the poem? Why is the eagle a male? How would the poem be different if the eagle were a female?
7. This poem is about winter, as in the season. However, this is just a cover for something more important or deeper. What might that be? What parts of the poem give you your ideas?
8. What is the effect of the refrain in "Winter"? How does it compare to the refrain in "Spring"?
9. What is the tone of "Spring"? Do you think it's meant to be comedic, cautionary, or both? What specific examples from the poem support your opinion?
10. What makes "Spring" feel like a song? Does it feel more or less song-like than poems written in free verse? Why or why not?
11. Could this poem be set at another time of year? If "yes," when? If "no," why not?
12. Imagine you're a music producer, producing tracks for some of today's biggest stars. Who would be the best and the worst pop artists to sing "Spring"? Why? (Choose carefully—this is your career we're talking about.)