

Daddy fell into the pond

Alfred Noyes was a poet who was born in 1880. *Daddy fell into the pond* was published in 1952. It is a comic poem which began with a group of people having a dull day.

However, everyone's mood was suddenly lifted when something unexpected happens

Everyone grumbled. The sky was grey,
We had nothing to do and nothing to say,
We were nearing the end of a dismal day,
And there seemed to be nothing beyond,

THEN

Daddy fell into the pond!

And everyone's face grew merry and bright,
And Timothy danced for sheer delight.
"Give me the camera, quick, oh quick!
He's crawling out of the duckweed."

Click!

Then the gardener suddenly slapped his knee,
And doubled up, shaking silently,
And the ducks all quacked as if they were daft
And it sounded as if the old drake* laughed
O, there wasn't a thing that didn't respond

WHEN

Daddy fell into the pond!

Alfred Noyes

Glossary

drake - male duck

1) Do you think the people are enjoying themselves in lines 1-4? Explain your answer

2) Why do you think the word 'nothing' is repeated in line 2

3) Why do you think the poet put 'THEN' in capital letters and on a separate line in line 5?

4) What does 'Click!' in line 11 refer to?

5) How do you think the gardener felt when 'Daddy fell into the pond'? How can you tell?

6) Which 2 words does the poet use to rhyme with 'pond'?

7) Describe how you think you would react if you saw someone fall into a pond?

Answers

1) Do you think the people are enjoying themselves in lines 1-4? Explain your answer

I don't think the people were enjoying themselves in lines 1-4 because it says they were grumbling; the sky was grey and they had nothing to do or say. It also says the day was dismal which means bad.

2) Why do you think the word 'nothing' is repeated in line 2

The word 'nothing' is repeated in line 2 to show just how boring it was.

3) Why do you think the poet put 'THEN' in capital letters and on a separate line in line 5?

The poet put 'THEN' in capital letters and on a separate line to make the reader pause/realise something dramatic was about to happen

4) What does 'Click!' in line 11 refer to?

Click refers to the sound of the camera taking a photo

5) How do you think the gardener felt when 'Daddy fell into the pond'? How can you tell?

The gardener thought it was really funny when Daddy fell into the pond because it says he was doubled up, shaking silently which means he was bent over holding his tummy and laughing really hard making him shake

6) Which 2 words does the poet use to rhyme with 'pond'?

Beyond and respond

7) Describe how you think you would react if you saw someone fall into a pond?

Your own answer
