

Reading Comprehension

WALT: retrieve information from a text

12

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 begins with a group of people having a dull day. However, everyone's mood is 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,

5

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!

10

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
15 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

13

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

☐ 2 marks

- 2 Why do you think the word "nothing" is repeated in line 2?

☐ 1 mark

- 3 Why do you think the poet put "THEN" in capitals and on a separate line in line 5?

☐ 1 mark

- 4 What does "Click!" in line 11 refer to?

☐ 1 mark

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

☐ 2 marks

- 6 Which two words does the poet use to rhyme with "pond"?

☐ 1 mark

- 7 Describe how you think you would react if you saw someone fall into a pond.

☐ 2 marks

Total
out of 10