**Summer Stars**  
*by Carl Sandburg*

Bend low again, night of summer stars.  
So near you are, sky of summer stars,  
So near, a long-arm man can pick off stars,  
Pick off what he wants in the sky bowl,  
So near you are, summer stars,  
So near, strumming, strumming,  
So lazy and hum-strumming.

**December Leaves**  
*by Kaye Starbird*

The fallen leaves are cornflakes  
That fill the lawn’s wide dish,  
And night and noon  
The wind’s a spoon  
That stirs them with a swish.

The sky’s a silver sifter,  
A-sifting white and slow,  
That gently shakes  
On crisp brown flakes  
The sugar known as snow.

“Summer Stars,” a poem from *Smoke and Steel* by Carl Sandburg. Copyright © 1920 by Harcourt, Inc and renewed 1948 by Carl Sandburg.

1. Which **best** describes the mood in “Summer Stars”?
   A spiteful
   B peaceful
   C joyful
   D regretful

2. In “Summer Stars,” what is the author trying to show?
   A Stars in the summer seem very close to Earth.
   B Summer stars are less vivid than winter stars.
   C Some stars are closer to Earth than others.
   D A night of summer stars is like a man with long arms.

3. What is the effect of the author’s use of metaphor in “December Leaves”?
   A It gives the poem a somber, formal tone.
   B It lets the reader relate the poem’s subject to a familiar activity.
   C It creates a mood of gloom and mystery.
   D It emphasizes the connection between December and the weather.

4. In “December Leaves,” what comparison is made?
   A fallen leaves on a lawn to a wide dish
   B day and night to the stirring of a spoon
   C snow falling out of the sky to crisp cornflakes
   D snow falling on leaves to sugar falling on cornflakes

5. What do both authors **most likely** want readers to feel after reading their poems?
   A Nature is more interesting when there is bad weather.
   B The power of nature should be feared and respected.
   C The seasons are alike in many ways.
   D There is comfort, wonder, and beauty in nature.

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**End of Set**

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## EOG Grade 6 Reading Sample Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection Title</th>
<th>Question Number</th>
<th>Correct Answer</th>
<th>Thinking Skill</th>
<th>Objective Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer Stars_December Leaves</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Analyzing</td>
<td>5.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Stars_December Leaves</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Generating</td>
<td>5.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Stars_December Leaves</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Analyzing</td>
<td>5.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Stars_December Leaves</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Knowledge</td>
<td>5.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Stars_December Leaves</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Evaluating</td>
<td>5.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>