A Lucky Thing

by Alice Schertle

High
up in a hawthorn tree
a robin perched, where he could see
into a coop of wire and wood.
Inside the coop a farmer stood
flinging grain upon the ground.
Twelve fat chickens gathered round.

The robin,
singing, cocked his head
and watched the chickens being fed.
He saw it was a lucky thing
to be a chicken: Farmers bring
you golden grain, scoop after scoop,
if you’re a chicken in a coop—
a lovely coop with nesting boxes
safe from cats and crows and foxes.

The chickens
in the coop could see
the bird. They heard his melody
and clucked it was a lucky thing
to be a robin who could sing
a song upon a hawthorn tree.
They watched him through the woven wire.
They saw him fly up high, and higher.

Twelve fat chickens
scratched the floor.
The farmer closed
and latched
the door.

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1. Which best describes the theme of the poem?
   A Envy is a destructive emotion.
   B Freedom is better than security.
   C Things are not appreciated until they are gone.
   D People often wish for things that others have.

2. How does the author make her point in the poem?
   A by showing what the farmer sees
   B by suggesting what the birds are thinking
   C by explaining how attractive the coop is
   D by describing what the birds are eating

3. What is the robin’s attitude about the chickens?
   A He is surprised by them.
   B He feels envy toward them.
   C He thinks they are lazy.
   D He is proud of them.

4. According to the information in the poem, which relationship is most similar to the relationship below?
   robin : hawthorn tree
   A foxes : nesting boxes
   B farmer : golden grain
   C chicken : coop
   D cats : foxes

5. Which is most similar to the situation described in the poem?
   A A dog wishes to catch the neighbor’s cat.
   B A squirrel hopes to gather enough food for winter.
   C A cow wishes to run free with the wild horses.
   D An insect hopes to escape being eaten by a frog.

End of Set

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