

CSAP  
Reading

**D**irections

Read this poem by Judith Wright. Then do Numbers 21 through 24.

**Egrets**

by Judith Wright



As I traveled through a quiet evening,  
I saw a pool, jet-black and mirror still.  
Beyond, the slender paperbarks stood crowding;  
each on its own white image looked its fill,  
and nothing moved but thirty egrets wading—  
thirty egrets in a quiet evening.

Once in a lifetime, lovely past believing,  
your lucky eyes may light on such a pool.  
As though for many years I had been waiting,  
I watched in silence, till my heart was full  
of clear dark water, and white trees unmoving,  
and, whiter yet, those egrets wading.

**21** The phrase “mirror still” emphasizes that the pool is

- dark and flowing.
- flat and calm.
- clean and transparent.
- round and full.

**22** What does the phrase “lovely past believing” mean in the poem?

- impressive
- gigantic
- curious
- lucky

The speaker of the poem states, “I watched in silence, till my heart was full of clear dark water.” Write an explanation to tell what the speaker means.

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There are two stanzas in this poem. Why is this division appropriate for the poem?

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Grade 8

Standard 6: Students read and recognize literature as a record of human experience.

Benchmark 6.d: Understand how figurative language supports meaning in a given context.

Subcontent Area: poetry

**23**

The speaker of the poem states, "I watched in silence, till my heart was full of clear dark water."

Write an explanation to tell what the speaker means.

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**24**

There are two stanzas in this poem. Why is this division appropriate for the poem?

CSAP Reading Scoring Guide

EGRETS

Item 23:

The speaker of the poem states, "I watched in silence, till my heart was full of clear dark water." Write an explanation to tell what the speaker means.

Rubric

Exemplary Response

The speaker is calmed by the sight of the birds. As he or she watches his or her heart is filled with peace and quiet.

Score Points

2 points	Response is fully developed, including references to quiet and peace and showing that the speaker is moved by the sight of the birds.
1 point	Response is brief (e.g., "the speaker is quiet," or "speaker is moved").
0 points	Other