

Response to Literature

REMINDER

- Write your response to the writing prompt below.
- You may give your writing a title if you would like.
- You may NOT use a dictionary. If you do not know how to spell a word, sound the word out and do the best you can.
- You may either print or write in cursive.
- Write clearly! Any erasures or strike-throughs should be as clean as possible.

DIRECTIONS: Read the following poem and then read the writing task.

A Bird came down the Walk by Emily Dickinson

A Bird came down the Walk—
He did not know I saw—
He bit an angle-worm¹ in halves
And ate the fellow, raw,

And then he drank a Dew
From a convenient Grass,
And then hopped sidewise to the Wall
To let a Beetle pass—

He glanced with rapid eyes
That hurried all abroad—
They looked like frightened Beads, I thought—
He stirred his velvet head

Like one in danger, Cautious,
I offered him a Crumb,
And he unrolled his feathers
And rowed him softer home—

Than Oars divide the Ocean,
Too silver for a seam—
Or Butterflies, off Banks of Noon,
Leap, plashless², as they swim.

¹angle-worm: an earthworm

²plashless: without a splash

Writing Task:

Emily Dickinson’s poem “A Bird came down the Walk” shows a narrator that comes upon a bird and interacts with it.

Write an essay in which you analyze the interactions of the narrator and the bird, and explain how these interactions affect the theme of the poem. Provide evidence with textual references to support your analysis.

Checklist for Your Writing

The following checklist will help you do your best work. Make sure you do the following:

- ✓ **Read the description of the task carefully.**
- ✓ **Organize your writing with a strong introduction, body, and conclusion.**
- ✓ **Provide a thesis responsive to the task and support it fully with specific details and examples.**
- ✓ **Use words that are appropriate for your audience and purpose.**
- ✓ **Vary your sentences to make your writing interesting to read.**
- ✓ **Check for mistakes in grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and sentence formation.**