

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

A Real Case

by Sara Holbrook

Doubtful,
I have a fever
or any other measurable symptom.
I'm just down with a sniffly case
5 of sudden-self-loathing-syndrome.

TODAY!
It hit like a thwop of mashed potatoes
snapped against a plate,
An unrequested extra serving
10 of just-for-now-self-hate.

Today, I'm worthless,
a leftover bath,
a wad of second-hand gum.
I belong in a twist-tied bag
15 with the rest of the toys that won't run.

My mood's as welcome as
incoming dog breath,
or a terminal case of split ends.
I sparkle like a dust rag,
20 I could attract mosquitoes—
maybe—not friends.

In fact, I could be contagious!
I'm a downer to say the least.
And if you try to push
25 my mood swing, I'll only drag my feet.

Why? I couldn't tell you.
Just, some days, I get up and get down.
It's not a permanent disability, though.
Tomorrow,
30 I'll come around.

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1. Which lines from the poem best suggest that the speaker's situation is temporary?
- F Doubtful,/I have a fever
 - G Tomorrow,/I'll come around.
 - H TODAY!/It hit like a thwop of mashed potatoes
 - J I could attract mosquitoes—/maybe—not friends.

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2. What is the most likely reason that the poet uses capitalization in line 6?
- A To highlight a problem the speaker experiences
 - B To stress the speaker's expectations for tomorrow
 - C To indicate that the speaker's condition happens unexpectedly
 - D To show the speaker's excitement about an upcoming event

3. Read the following lines from the poem.

And if you try to push
my mood swing, I'll only drag my feet.

The poet includes these lines most likely to suggest that the speaker —

- F does not wish to be pushed on a swing
- G wants to deal with the situation alone
- H does not often receive help from others
- J is not physically strong

4. The imagery in lines 16 through 19 helps the reader understand —

- A the shift in the speaker's attitude
- B the speaker's unpleasantness
- C why the speaker has no friends
- D what the speaker thinks of others

5. The poet reveals the speaker's feelings mainly by —
- F using similes and metaphors to describe them
 - G explaining their effect on others
 - H connecting them to memories
 - J repeating specific words for emphasis