**Monarch Magic**

I watch with awe as you spring

Free from the prison you enclosed yourself in;

Cracking the capsule of crystal that captures

Your beautiful body and budding wings.

5 You push through, and nature sings.

Like sails catching a sudden gust

Those frail folded flaps unfurl;

The sun toasts them dry of their newborn dew.

They shimmer brightly in a new world;

10 White dots and black stripes on rust.

Before long you enjoy freedom won,

Vitalized with rest from tiresome struggle

You leave behind your chrysalis husk

That kept you safely wrapped in a bundle

15 And race toward the distant sun.

I know just where you will go,

As you ride the breeze to the horizon.

You will meet millions and travel south

In an orange blanket that smothers the sky

20 Destined to find home in Mexico.

You will soon rob this land of your grace

And leave it dull as pale elephant skin

Destined to find home in Mexico.

For many months of biting wintry weather

While you dance in warm sun rays

25 Spreading your magic in that new place.

But someday I will meet your kin

That will bring beauty back to my tree,

Sipping sweet nectar from its new blossoms

And hanging crystalline ornaments

30 Like this one clung to its limb.

Use “Monarch Magic” to answer questions 24–27.

24 Read lines 6 and 7 from the poem.

**Like sails catching a sudden gust**

**Those frail folded flaps unfurl;**

The poet uses the simile in these lines to describe —

F the damage the wind has done to the butterfly’s wings

G the quickness and fullness of the butterfly’s spreading wings

H the colors of the butterfly’s new wings

J the size of the butterfly’s wings compared to a ship’s sails

25 The poet includes stanzas 1 through 3 most likely to —

A describe the actions of the butterfly as a beautiful event

B highlight the speaker’s memories of observing the butterfly

C emphasize the effect the butterfly has on its surroundings

D show that the speaker is watching more than one butterfly

26 Which lines from the poem best express the speaker’s anticipation of a future event?

F Cracking the capsule of crystal that captures

Your beautiful body and budding wings.

G But someday I will meet your kin

That will bring beauty back to my tree,

H You leave behind your chrysalis husk

That kept you safely wrapped in a bundle

J They shimmer brightly in a new world;

White dots and black stripes on rust.

27 Why does the poet include a simile in line 22?

A To emphasize the delicateness of the butterflies

B To identify another animal that inhabits the area

C To describe how the butterflies become less attractive over time

D To express the idea that the area will be less beautiful without the butterflies

**The Storyteller by Jennifer Hu**

The tree in my backyard

Has two hundred rings,

Two hundred years of history,

Hidden behind her bark.

5 She was here as a seedling,

A mere child to the rest,

Young and naïve among her dark, old elders.

But now she is a guardian,

Tall and welcoming,

10 Gathering and shielding the children in her arms.

She has scarred wood,

With intricate designs carved into her face.

And she changes her clothes each season:

A dress of pink blossoms in the spring,

15 A gown of green leaves in the summer.

Skirts of fiery sanguine hues in autumn,

And a snowy, white robe in winter.

Her hands intertwine together,

Gnarled fingers twisted into shapes.

20 Her face looks out to the world,

A grandmother to us all.

She has stood there for so long,

Been here since before I was born,

Saw the flow of the seasons,

25 Heard the drumming of the rain,

Smelled the dew on summer dawns,

And felt the moist soil at her feet.

The tree in my backyard

Has two hundred years of history.

30 What stories she must tell.

35 What does the poet suggest about the tree in lines 24 through 30?

A It is nearing the end of its life.

B It was in danger one year during a particularly rainy season.

C It has many descriptions of events carved into its wood.

D It has witnessed many events through the years.

36 Which lines from the poem suggest that the tree deserves respect?

F And she changes her clothes each season:

A dress of pink blossoms in the spring,

G She has scarred wood,

With intricate designs carved into her face.

H Her face looks out to the world,

A grandmother to us all.

J Smelled the dew on summer dawns,

And felt the moist soil at her feet.

37 Which word best describes the speaker’s attitude toward the tree?

A Appreciative

B Cheerful

C Sorrowful

D Envious

38 In line 16, the word hues means —

F injuries

G plants

H expressions

J colors

39 Why are the first and third lines of the poem echoed in the last stanza?

A To show how large the tree has grown

B To highlight that the age of the tree makes it special

C To remind the reader of the importance of the environment

D To explain what the speaker enjoys most about the tree’s appearance

40 Read lines 5 through 10 from the poem.

She was here as a seedling,

A mere child to the rest,

Young and naïve among her dark, old elders.

But now she is a guardian,

Tall and welcoming,

Gathering and shielding the children in her arms.

The poet uses personification in these lines most likely to show that the tree —

F protects the other trees

G provides a warning about approaching danger

H has become stronger as it has matured

J prevents smaller plants from having room to grow