

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

Bartholomew Blue

by Emma Walton Hamilton

Bartholomew Blue was a gentleman who
Could never decide what he wanted to do.
Mornings began in a terrible way,
As he'd try to decide what to wear for the day.

- 5 Which trousers? What shirt? And which socks, and what shoes?
Bartholomew just wasn't able to choose.

Completely confounded, he'd settle once more
On what he had chosen the morning before.
He'd go down to breakfast (a little bit smelly),
10 And try to decide what to put in his belly.
Two fried eggs and bacon? Some cinnamon bread?
He'd end up with yesterday's oatmeal instead.

- Each hour would bring yet another decision . . .
What program to watch on today's television?
15 What method of transport to travel to work?
Bartholomew worried he might go berserk!
And still he would choose what he'd chosen before,
Until life started seeming a terrible bore.

- As time trickled by him, things didn't improve.
20 For the less he would try things, the less he would move.
His suit became smellier day after day
His shoelaces frayed and his socks turned to gray.
He longed for excitement—a fresh point of view.
But habit prevailed, and he chose what he knew.

- 25 Soon cobwebs began to appear here and there.
And one day, a bird built a nest in his hair.
Before poor Bartholomew knew what to do,
Another bird parked on his head, and then two!
Cardinals, blue jays, and sparrows galore—
30 Followed by chickadees, finches, and more.

Bartholomew stood there, stuck fast in his boots,
And before very long, he began to grow roots.
Then—just as the birds on his head had assumed,
He sprouted with branches and leaves, and he *bloomed!*
35 Bartholomew Blue is a tree to this day . . .
But at least now he gives off a fragrant bouquet.

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11 Which of these lines from the poem helps the reader know what the word confounded means in line 7?

- A** Bartholomew just wasn't able to choose.
- B** He'd go down to breakfast (a little bit smelly),
- C** He'd end up with yesterday's oatmeal instead.
- D** Each hour would bring yet another decision . . .

12 Read these lines from the poem.

His suit became smellier day after day
His shoelaces frayed and his socks turned to gray.

The imagery used in these lines allows the reader to know that —

- F** Bartholomew's routine has been repeated for a long time
- G** Bartholomew does not realize his clothes are getting old
- H** Bartholomew's clothes have been damaged by birds
- J** Bartholomew works in a dirty environment

- 13** What idea does the poet convey through the description of Bartholomew in lines 25 through 30?
- A** That he has grown very large
 - B** That he has become very inactive
 - C** That he has learned to solve his problem
 - D** That he has found other ways to entertain himself
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- 14** Read this line from the first stanza.

Which trousers? What shirt? And which socks, and what shoes?

The repetition in this line emphasizes the idea that Bartholomew —

- F** follows a routine for selecting different outfits in the morning
- G** has difficulty finding outfits that match
- H** believes that he has too many choices to make
- J** thinks that getting ready in the morning requires too much time

- 15** The organization of the poem helps show that Bartholomew's actions —
- A** are a benefit to others
 - B** help him discover new ideas
 - C** create worse effects as time goes by
 - D** cannot be controlled

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- 16** Read these lines from the poem.

He sprouted with branches and leaves, and he *bloomed!*
Bartholomew Blue is a tree to this day . . .
But at least now he gives off a fragrant bouquet.

What is the poet most likely suggesting in these lines?

- F** Bartholomew enjoys the scent of trees.
- G** Bartholomew likes to spend time with nature.
- H** Bartholomew has decided to wear a tree costume.
- J** Bartholomew has finally become useful as a tree.