

A Slash of Blue

A slash of Blue—
A sweep of Gray—
Some scarlet patches on the way,
Compose an Evening Sky—
A little purple—slipped between—
Some Ruby Trousers hurried on—
A Wave of Gold—
A Bank of Day—
This just makes out the Morning Sky.

Emily Dickinson



Answer the questions about *A Slash of Blue* by Emily Dickinson.

1. What is the poet describing in this poem? Name the colours she uses to illustrate the images she describes.

2. Describe a picture you would draw or paint from reading and thinking about this poem. Would pencil or charcoal be suitable materials? Would you need paints? Why?

3. Does this combination of colours remind you of anything else? Can you think of another image that the colours create? (E.g. soldier in uniform?).

4. Discuss the way in which the following words are used and say whether or not you think they are good words for the poem: slash; sweep; composed; slipped between; wave; bank.

5. Divide into groups. Pick out the nouns and adjectives that begin with the letter 's'. Write a cinquain (5 line poem) based on these words, e.g.:

First line — 1 word _____

Second line — 2 words _____

Third line — 3 words _____

Fourth line — 4 words _____

Fifth line — 1 word. _____

6. Is there a rhyming pattern in the poem? What is your opinion of poems that do/do not rhyme? Have you a preference?

7. Find out when this poem was written. Is there any clue in it to tell us whether it is an old or modern poem?

8. Do you like this poem? What are your reasons for liking/not liking it?
