Loveliest of Trees
by A.E. Houseman

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.

Now, of my threescore years and ten,
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.

And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty springs are little room,
About the woodlands I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.
1. What does the speaker call the "loveliest of trees"?
   A. the white tree
   B. the maple tree
   C. the cherry tree
   D. the oak tree

2. What does the poet describe in the first verse of the poem?
   A. the wood's decorations for Easter
   B. a tree in the woods hung with bloom
   C. a bright red tree in the woods
   D. the path he or she takes through the woods

3. Read these lines from the poem:

   Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
   Is hung with bloom along the bough,
   And stands about the woodland ride
   Wearing white for Eastertide.

   Based on this evidence, which season does this verse reflect?
   A. summer
   B. winter
   C. fall
   D. spring
4. The speaker of the poem is twenty years old and expects to live till he or she is seventy.

What lines from the poem best support this conclusion?

A. And stands about the woodland ride / Wearing white for Eastertide.
B. And since to look at things in bloom / Fifty springs are little room,
C. Now, of my threescore years and ten, / Twenty will not come again,
D. Fifty springs are little room, / About the woodlands I will go

5. What is a main theme of this poem?

A. Nature is most lovely in the springtime, when everything is in bloom.
B. Life is relatively short, so you should enjoy the world's beauty while you are able.
C. It is important to view cherry trees as often as possible because of their short lifespans.
D. There is plenty of time in life to do both the things you must do and the things you want to do.

6. Read the final verse from the poem:

And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty springs are little room,
About the woodlands I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.

What does the poet mean by the phrase "little room" in this verse?

A. a small space
B. too much time
C. a short season
D. not much time
7. Read these lines from the poem:

Now, of my threescore years and ten,
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.

What does the phrase "fifty more" in the last line of this verse refer to?

A. winters  
B. scores  
C. trees  
D. springs

8. During which part of the year does the speaker view the cherry tree?

9. Why does the speaker decide to go to the woodlands and see the cherry tree "hung with snow?" Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

10. Based on the poem, how might the speaker be described? Be sure to address the kinds of things the speaker appreciates, enjoys, or values. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.