

A Dream Within a Dream

BY EDGAR ALLAN POE

Take this kiss upon the brow!
And, in parting from you now,
Thus much let me avow —
You are not wrong, who deem
That my days have been a dream;
Yet if hope has flown away
In a night, or in a day,
In a vision, or in none,
Is it therefore the less *gone*?
All that we see or seem
Is but a dream within a dream.

I stand amid the roar
Of a surf-tormented shore,
And I hold within my hand
Grains of the golden sand —
How few! yet how they creep
Through my fingers to the deep,
While I weep — while I weep!
O God! Can I not grasp
Them with a tighter clasp?
O God! can I not save
One from the pitiless wave?
Is *all* that we see or seem
But a dream within a dream?

Read Poe's poem *A Dream Within a Dream* and answer the following questions.

1. What does the speaker tell the woman?
 - a. she has nice hair
 - b. she's not wrong
 - c. nothing
 - d. she's tall
2. What does the speaker do to the woman before he leaves her?
 - a. gives her a kiss
 - b. hugs her
 - c. sells her a purse
 - d. yells at her
3. Who is the woman?
 - a. Poe's mother
 - b. Poe's girlfriend
 - c. Poe's sister
 - d. we don't know
4. What does the speaker do in the first stanza?
 - a. goes to school
 - b. reads a book
 - c. looks at a painting
 - d. leaves a woman
5. What noun best describes the tone of the first stanza?
 - a. pain
 - b. acceptance
 - c. joy
 - d. confusion
6. What object functions as a metaphor illustration how the speaker cannot keep his grasp on reality and the people he loves?
 - a. sand
 - b. water
 - c. clouds
 - d. music