

# Leisure

What is this life if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.

No time to stand beneath the boughs  
And stare as long as sheep or cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass,  
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see, in broad daylight,  
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,  
And watch her feet, how they can dance.

No time to wait till her mouth can  
Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this is, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.

By William Henry Davies (1871-1940)



## Year 6 Reading Assessment Poetry



Questions 15 to 23 are about 'Leisure'

15. Which three animals are mentioned in the poem?

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1 mark

16. What is the meaning of the word 'boughs'? Tick one.

stars in the sky

blades of grass

branches of a tree

streams of water

1 mark

17. Several lines start with the repeated phrase 'No time'.

What is the purpose of repeating these words?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark

18. What do you think the author means by 'streams full of stars'?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark

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19. Find and copy a phrase which could mean 'too occupied with worry'.

1 mark

\_\_\_\_\_

20. Look at the line 'No time to turn at Beauty's glance'

1 mark

Why is a capital letter used for the word 'Beauty'?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

21. Draw lines to match these parts of the poem with their correct movement or actions:

1 mark

sheep and cows

hide nuts in grass

squirrels

dance and smile

Beauty

stand and stare

22. In your own words, explain what message the poet is trying to give the reader.

3 marks

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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23. The title of the poem is '*Leisure*'. How does the word '*leisure*' link to the theme of the poem? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

2 marks

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End of questions about '*Leisure*'

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