



ENGLISH

POEM

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: VIII Sec: ____

Read the following poem and answer the questions below:

The Moth's Plea

*I am a disappointment
And much worse,
You hear a flutter, you expect a brilliance of wings,
Colours dancing a bright
Flutter , but then you see
A brown, bedraggled creature
With a shamefaced, unclean look
Darting upon your curtains and clothes
Fighting against the light.
I hate myself. It's no wonder you hate me,
I meddle among your things,
I make a meal out of almost any cloth,
I hide in cupboard and scare
Any who catch me unaware,
I am your enemy – the moth
You try to keep me away
But I am wily and when I do
Manage to hide, you chase me, beat me, put
Horrible- smelling balls to poison me
Have you ever thought what it's like to be
A parasite,
Someone who gives you a fright,
Who envies the rainbow colours of the bright
Butterflies that hover round flowers all day?
O please believe that I do understand how it feels
To be awake in and be afraid of the night.
Elizabeth jennigs*

The moth is a disappointment to people who see it because:

- 2.1
- a. It is so colourful
 - b. It is so dull and drab to look at
 - c. It flies so slowly

The moth says that it hates itself. This shows that it has :

- 2.2
- a. Pride in its appearance
 - b. Confidence in its abilities
 - c. Poor self-esteem



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People consider the moth as their enemy as:

- 2.3
- It jumps at them, frightens them
 - It awakens them at night.
 - It hates itself.

People try to get rid of the moth by:

- 2.4
- Using mosquito repellents
 - Poisoning it
 - Chasing it away, beating it and poisoning it.

The two reasons why the moth envies the butterfly are:

- 2.5
- It is free to fly and spend time among the flowers
 - For its beautiful colours and time spent among flowers
 - Because it is drab and is frightened of the dark

By saying that it understands “ how it feels to be awake in and be afraid of the night” the moth wants to express:

- 2.6
- How frightened it is of the dark
 - How it dislikes colours
 - How it misses the light

The synonym of ‘ Wily’:

- 2.7
- Foolish
 - Intelligent
 - cunning

The antonym of ‘ hide’;

- 2.8
- reveal
 - conceal
 - obscure