

Name:.....

I. Before listening | **II. Listening**

1. **The odd one out** cross the odd word out and give a title to the list

adenoids / ears / elbows / heart / jacket / mouth / toes

.....

day / life / months / years

.....

saw / said / hadn't / loved / might / were / counted / was / drifted / write / knew / put / hid

.....

2. **Listen to the poem and fill in the gaps with the missing words** (they are the ones left from exercise 1)

In extremis

I _____ my _____ the other _____.

I _____ looked at them for _____.

Indeed, they _____ have passed away.

And yet they _____ my best friends once.

When I _____ small, I _____ them well.

I _____ on them up to ten

And _____ them in my _____ to tell

The larger from the lesser. Then

I _____ them better than my _____,

My _____, _____, and _____.

But with the swelling of the _____

We _____, toes and I, apart.

Now, gnarled and pale, each _____, *j'accuse!*-

I _____ them quickly in my shoes.

John Updike American (1932-)

III. After listening

I. form and sounds

1. Listen to the poem again and write down the rhyming pattern of it. *Be careful the rhymes can be ear rhymes (same sound but not same spelling) !*

ABAB

This rhyming pattern is typical of
a Shakespearean sonnet / a ballad / a limerick
(circle the correct answers)

2. Which rhyming syllables have the same pronunciation but not the same spelling?

3. Listen to the word "gnarled" carefully

- what do you notice about its pronunciation?

- Write its phonetics :

4. Which word could have been pronounced differently by the reader? Why?

5. Listen to the poem again and underline the stressed words with a pencil.

Understanding

1. What is the poet writing about?
His toes / his best friends / his shoes ?

2. What kind of relationship did he use to have with them? *Justify with words from the poem*

3. When was that?

4. Now he is **very attached to them / he is distant.**
Justify with words from the poem

5. His feelings towards them changed suddenly
Right/ Wrong ? Justify with a quote

6. The poet takes the full responsibility for his attitude. **Right /wrong ? Explain**

What about the tone of the poem ? It is ...
romantic/ dramatic/ ironic/ humorous/ light hearted / sad

IV. Now your turn !

Learn the poem by heart pay a particular attention to the pronunciation and to the stressed words and syllables!

Record yourself and listen to the result.

Save your recording once you're happy with it.

Download it on the intranet on the 27th of February