

Comprehension

- A.**
1. Some creatures that live underground are rabbits, moles, ants, worms, foxes and mice.
 2. a. By populous empires, the poet is referring to crowded colonies of ants that live below the ground.
b. These empires are being built by ants.
 3. The poet thinks the ants may stop their work. They will stop to hear the sound of his footsteps as he walks overhead.
 4. The fork and the spade may disturb animals like foxes, mice and frogs. During winters, these animals bury themselves underground and sleep through the cold months.
 5. The poet calls the underground 'the country of the dead' because he is referring to the graves of dead people who are buried underground.
- B.** In the poem, the poet describes the underground as a quiet yet busy place through various examples. In the beginning of the poem, he tells that us in the underground, there is very little sound. Later, he mentions that some creatures are fast asleep beneath the ground. This tells us that the underground is a quiet place. However, he then goes on to tell us that rabbits and moles explore the underground while ants build nests for their large colonies. This tells us that there is a lot of activity that goes on beneath the soil. Using these examples, he is able to bring out the contrast.

Appreciating the poem.

- A.** 3. A world that is as marvelous below as it is above the ground
- B.** 1. ground, sound 2. spread, tread 3. stones, bones 4. grow, fro

Vocabulary

- a. No light and little sound
- b. Some creatures sleep and do not toil
- c. Quarrying ants run to and fro
- d. Deep down, the buried rocks and stones are like the earth's gigantic bones

Going Further

Free response.