



ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and talk about your ideas.

- 1 How can we see that time is passing? Think of different ways.
- 2 Do you like spring or summer most? Why?
- 3 Someone takes you on a long journey but you don't know where you are going. What questions would you ask them?

These poems were written by Christina Rossetti. Her family came from Italy but she grew up in England. They were a very artistic family of writers and painters.



1 Read the poems. As you read, think about this question.

Imagine the book these poems are from has drawings for each poem. What three drawings would you choose for the poems?

Three Poems Christina Rossetti

Uphill

Does the road go **uphill** all the way?

– Yes, right until the end.

Will the day's journey take the whole long day?

– From morning to night, my friend.

5 But is there for the night a **resting-place**?

– A roof for when the slow dark hours begin.

But what if darkness hide it from my face?

– You cannot miss that **inn**.

Shall I meet other travellers at night?

10 – Those who have gone before.

Then must I knock, or call when just in sight?

– They will not keep you standing at that door.

Shall I find **comfort**, travel-tired and weak?

Will there be beds for me and all who **seek**?

15 – Yes, beds for all who come.

Song

The days are clear,

Day after day,

When April's here,

That leads to May,

5 And June

Must follow soon:

Stay, June, stay! –

If only we could stop the moon

And June!

Sing-Song

How many minutes in an hour?

Sixty for sun and shower.

How many hours in a day?

Twenty-four for work and play.

5 How many days in a week?

Seven both to hear and speak.

How many weeks in a month?

Four, as the **swift** moon runs.

How many months in a year?

10 Twelve the calendar makes clear.

How many years in an age?

One hundred says the **sage**.

How many ages in time?

No one knows the **rhyme**.

GLOSSARY

uphill	a direction that goes up, and something difficult to do
resting-place	a place where people can stop and rest or sleep
inn	a small hotel, usually in the countryside
comfort	a feeling of being relaxed and free from pain
seek	try to find or get something
swift	very fast
sage	a wise person
rhyme	words that rhyme have the same last sound

2 Read the poems again and answer the questions.

Which poem or poems mention the following?

1 rain

.....
.....

2 sounds

.....
.....

3 days

.....
.....

4 kinds of light

.....
.....

5 movement

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.....

6 kinds of people

.....
.....

VOCABULARY

3 Answer the questions.

1 How many words can you think of that rhyme with the word *June*?

.....
.....

2 How many things can you think of that are very *swift*?

.....
.....

3 How many things can you think of that people *seek*?

.....
.....

4 Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

inn resting-place sage uphill

- 1** My grandfather is a – he really understands people.
- 2** The family found a at the end of their long journey.
- 3** We stayed in an close to the river in the countryside.
- 4** Because the road was for a long way, we walked very slowly.

WRITING

5 Write a poem of eight lines about one of these things:

- a journey
- the months of the year
- time

I ...

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.....

It was ...

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.....

There were ...

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I ...

.....
.....

It was ...

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.....

There were ...

.....
.....

I ...

.....
.....

But ...

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.....

SPEAKING

6 Work with a partner. Using the questions below, A interviews B, then B interviews A. Answer the questions imagining you are someone you know well – a good friend or someone in your family, for example. Say what you think they would answer. When you have finished, the interviewer should say how old the person is and if it is a boy, girl, man or woman.

- Do you like the summer or winter most? Why?
- How far do you walk every day?
- Which is your favourite month. Why?
- What time do you get up in the morning?
- Where do you go on holiday?
- What do you do on your birthday?
- Do you use a bicycle?
- What time do you go to bed?