

Ted Hughes
Hawk Roosting
Some more challenging questions!

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1. No falsifying dream
Between my hooked head and hooked feet:
Or in sleep rehearse perfect kills and eat.
 - The hawk claims that he has "no falsifying dream". What does he mean by this? Is he referring to his own dreams or to the dreams of other creatures? (4)
 - What do the words "in sleep rehearse perfect kills and eat" tell you about the hawk's existence? (4)

2. The convenience of the high trees!
The air's buoyancy and the sun's ray
Are of advantage to me;
And the earth's face upward for my inspection.
 - Explain the meaning of "And the earth's face upward for my inspection". What does this tell you of the hawk's attitude to life? (4)

3. It took the whole of Creation
To produce my foot, my each feather:
Now I hold Creation in my foot
 - What do these words tell you about the ATTITUDE of the hawk? (4)
 - How can the hawk hold Creation in his foot? (2)

4. Or fly up, and revolve it all slowly --
I kill where I please because it is all mine.
There is no sophistry in my body:
My manners are tearing off heads --
 - Explain how the hawk can "fly up, and revolve [Creation] slowly". (2)

5. The hawk says that there is "no sophistry" in his body. His manners are tearing off heads.
 - What do we mean by "manners"? Is it possible even to use the word "manners" to describe the hawk? (4)

6. For the one path of my flight is direct
Through the bones of the living.
No arguments assert my right.
 - What does the hawk mean when he says that the path of his flight is "direct through the bones of the living"? (4)

7. What word below BEST describes the attitude of the hawk? Explain your answer. (4)
Conceit; sophistication; humility; awkwardness; arrogance.

8. Is this poem in any way satirical? If so, what is the poet satirizing? Explain your answer. (4)

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