

**Gabriela Pearse**  
**Today**  
**Some more challenging questions!**

Worksheet by:  
Dr Keith Tankard  
Knowledge4Africa.com

1. "Asking to be held  
like no-one held her."
  - What is the subject of the participle "asking"? (1)
  - What is meant by "like no-one held her"? (4)
  - What language device is being used in the above quotation? (1)
  
2. "Asking to be fed  
like no-one fed her."
  - Explain what it is that the woman needs to eat. (3)
  
3. "She crawled beneath  
my skirt trembling and  
afraid and clasped  
my lifeboat legs."
  - What image is being used in these four lines? Explain your answer. (4)
  - Why would the subject be crawling "beneath my skirt"? (4)
  - Explain the significance of "my lifeboat legs". (4)
  
4. "But I had meetings  
to go to,  
and a world to save."
  - Explain the irony of this final verse. (4)
  
5. Some general questions:
  - Is there any reason for the short verses and the very brief lines? (4)
  - Why is this poem entitled "Today"? (4)

<[www.knowledge4africa.com](http://www.knowledge4africa.com)>

**This worksheet is copyrighted. No part of it may be copied or printed in any form whatever without the express permission in writing of the author. The sole exception is for non-profit educational purposes.**