

William Shakespeare
When in disgrace with fortune
Even more challenging questions!

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1. "When, in disgrace with Fortune and men's eyes,
I all alone beweepe my outcast state,
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries,
And look upon myself and curse my fate."
 - What would the poet be referring to when he mentions "beweepe my outcast state"? (4)
 - Comment on the imagery of "deaf heaven" and "my bootless cries". (4)

2. "Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,
Featur'd like him, like him with friends possess'd,
Desiring this man's art, and that man's scope,
With what I most enjoy contented least."
 - What does the poet mean when he says "what I most enjoy contented least"? (2)

3. "Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising,
Haply I think on thee, and then my state,
Like to the lark at break of day arising
From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate."
 - Explain the significance of singing "at heaven's gate". (4)
 - Explain how the simile "Like to the lark . . ." reinforces the poet's tone regarding the change of feeling that he experiences at the thought of his favourite friend. (4)

4. "For thy sweet love remember'd such wealth brings,
That then I scorn to change my state with kings."
 - Is the poet's argument in this rhyming couplet convincing? (5)

5. This sonnet, although obviously Elizabethan, exhibits characteristics of a Petrarchan structure in its argument.
 - Would you like to comment on the truth of this? (4)

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