

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Practice Reading Poetry

Read "The Lily," by William Blake, and answer the questions that follow.

### "The Lily," by William Blake

The modest Rose puts forth a thorn,  
The humble sheep a threat'ning horn.  
While the Lily white shall in love delight.  
Nor a thorn nor a threat stain her beauty bright.

1. In one sentence, summarize this poem.

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2. What is the rhyme scheme? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Write down a line from the poem that has an internal rhyme.

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4. Give one example of personification in the poem. What is being personified, and explain the personification.

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5. What could the Lily symbolize? Give evidence from the poem to support your answer.

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### ANSWERS--Practice Reading Poetry

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The humble sheep a threat'ning horn.  
While the Lily white shall in love delight.  
Nor a thorn nor a threat stain her beauty bright.

1. In one sentence, summarize this poem.

The modest rose and humble sheep both have a negative side—a thorn or a horn. The lily is the only one that is perfectly good—no negative.

2. What is the rhyme scheme? \_AABB\_

3. Write down a line from the poem that has an internal rhyme.

While the lily white shall in love delight.

4. Give one example of personification in the poem. What is being personified, and explain the personification.

The rose is personified—puts forth a thorn. The Lily is personified—it delights in love.

5. What could the Lily symbolize? Give evidence from the poem to support your answer.

The lily symbolizes perfect innocence and love. The lily does not even have a defense mechanism like the rose with a "thorn" or the sheep with a "horn." She "delights in love"—has no malice or hate.