

**Janet Waking**

**Beautifully Janet slept  
Till it was deeply morning. She woke then  
And thought about her dainty-feathered hen,  
To see how it had kept.**

**One kiss she gave her mother,  
Only a small one gave she to her daddy  
Who would have kissed each curl of his shining baby;  
No kiss at all for her brother.**

**“Old Chucky, Old Chucky!” she cried,  
Running across the world upon the grass  
To Chucky’s house, and listening. But alas,  
Her Chucky had died.**

**It was a transmogrifying bee  
Came droning down on Chucky’s old bald head  
And sat and put the poison. It scarcely bled,  
But how exceedingly**

**And purplely did the knot  
Swell with the venom and communicate  
Its rigour! Now the poor comb stood up straight  
But Chucky did not.**

**So there was Janet  
Kneeling on the wet grass, crying her brown hen  
(Translated far beyond the daughters of men)  
To rise and walk upon it.**

**And weeping fast as she had breath  
Janet implored us, “Wake her from her sleep!”  
And would not be instructed in how deep  
Was the forgetful kingdom of death.**

**By John Crowe Ransom**

**Level: First Year**

**Second Term Literary Texts Key Answer**

**Part one: Answer each question from the poem: (14 Points)**

1. Which type is the title of the poem? Explain. **The title is both denotative and connotative because it describes the physical act of Janet waking up in the morning and represents her emotional and psychological "awakening" to the reality of death.**
2. What is the rhyme scheme of the poem? **a b b a** for each four-line stanza.
3. Provide 6 examples of alliteration from each of the first 6 stanzas? 1/**h**ow / **h**ad 2/ **k**iss / **c**url 3/**H**er / **H**ad 4/ **D**roning / **D**own 5/ **S**tood / **S**traight 6/ **h**er / **h**en.
4. Which type of meter are line 2 and 3 in stanza one? Iambic Pentameter. Iambic because each foot contains one unstressed syllable + unstressed and each line contains 10 S / 5 feet (metrical units)
5. Provide an example of personification? Swell with the venom and **communicate**. Giving the knot a human attribute such as communicating its mission.
6. Identify the exact moment in the poem where the mood shifts? Justify The shift occurs at the very end of Stanza 3 with the exclamation: **"But alas, / Her Chucky had died**. Based on the chosen diction the poem transitions sharply from a lighthearted, innocent, joyful mood to a dark, somber, and gloomy one.
7. Provide one example of hyperbole. **Transmogrifying bee**. To *transmogrify* means to transform or mutate in a grotesque or magical way. The speaker exaggerates the bee's power into a monstrous strength capable of changing the corpus's form.
8. Provide one metaphor from the poem. **Forgetful kingdom of death**. Death is compared to a vast, absolute, and uncaring monarchy where those who enter are entirely forgotten or forget the living world.
9. What specific details in the first two stanzas indicate Janet's sense of urgency to visit her chicken coop as soon as she wakes up, her immediate thought is *"To see how it had kept"*. Moreover, she dismisses her family by giving her dad *"only a small one"*, and gives *"no kiss at all for her brother"* so she can rush outside
10. Who is the "us" that Janet implores at the end of the poem? What specific action is she demanding they take? It refers to her family members who are the first to witness her grief and the readers also who are her age.
11. Why does the poem end with Janet refusing to be "instructed"? she is experiencing the raw shock of first-time grief; her refusal is a defensive mechanism to protect her childhood innocence believing that because `she woke then` at the beginning, Chucky as well should be able to wake up.
12. **Part Two: In a well-structured paragraph, compare the concept of "waking" or "awakening" as it is presented in John Crowe Ransom's *Janet Waking* and Claude McKay's *If We Must Die*.**

**The student should compare the waking from innocence to the harsh reality of death and loss that Janet endured in the poem with all its repercussions as compared with Mackay's call for the black community to wake up to the reality of the unreliable and untrustworthy WASP's. Moreover, they should wake up to their tendency of dehumanizing African Americans by comparing them to `wild hungry dogs`.**