

EXAMEN DE FIN D'ÉTUDES SECONDAIRES CLASSIQUES
Sessions 2023 – QUESTIONNAIRE ÉCRIT

Date :	16.05.23	Durée :	14:15 - 16:45	Numéro candidat :	
Discipline :	Anglais - Analyse littéraire - texte inconnu	Section(s) :	CA / CA-LLCO / CA-MALA / CA-MALF / CA-MAT / CA-PSYA / CA-PSYF		

The Trees are Down

—and he cried with a loud voice:
Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees—
(Revelation)

They are cutting down the great plane-trees at the end of the gardens.
For days there has been the grate of the saw, the swish of the branches as they fall,
The crash of the trunks, the rustle of trodden leaves,
4 With the 'Whoops' and the 'Whoas,' the loud common talk, the loud common laughs of the men,
above it all.

I remember one evening of a long past Spring
Turning in at a gate, getting out of a cart, and finding a large dead rat in the mud of the drive.
I remember thinking: alive or dead, a rat was a god-forsaken thing,
8 But at least, in May, that even a rat should be alive.

The week's work here is as good as done. There is just one bough
On the roped **bole**, in the fine grey rain,
Green and high
12 And lonely against the sky.
(Down now!—)
And but for that,
If an old dead rat
16 Did once, for a moment, unmake the Spring, I might never have thought of him again.

It is not for a moment the Spring is unmade to-day;
These were great trees, it was in them from root to stem:
When the men with the 'Whoops' and the 'Whoas' have carted the whole of the whispering
loveliness away
20 Half the Spring, for me, will have gone with them.

It is going now, and my heart has been struck with the hearts of the **planes**;
Half my life it has beat with these, in the sun, in the rains,
In the March wind, the May breeze,
24 In the great **gales** that came over to them across the roofs from the great seas.

28 There was only a quiet rain when they were dying;
 They must have heard the sparrows flying,
And the small creeping creatures in the earth where they were lying—
 But I, all day, I heard an angel crying:
 'Hurt not the trees.'

Charlotte Mew (1869-1928)

from *Collected Poems and Prose* (Carcanet Press Limited, 1981)

Glossary:

Revelation: Book of Revelation, final book of the New Testament

I.10 bole : the trunk of a tree

I.21 planes : tall trees of the northern hemisphere

I.24 gales : very strong winds

Answer the following questions. Use your own words while also keeping close reference to the text.

1. What is the speaker's attitude to the cutting of the trees in comparison to the workmen's? (12 marks)
2. In how far is the second stanza different from the others? (6 marks)
3. Comment on the form and style of the third stanza. How does it underpin what is going on? (10 marks)
4. What is the effect of the personification used in the poem? (10 marks)
5. Comment on the final two lines of the poem. (7 marks)
6. What is people's relationship with nature today? (15 marks)