

Name: _____ Class: _____

Nothing Gold Can Stay

By Robert Frost
From New Hampshire • 1923

Robert Frost (1874-1963) was one of the most popular and critically respected American poets in history. His poems frequently employ rural scenes from the New England countryside. "Nothing Gold Can Stay," published in 1923, uses nature to describe aging, an inevitable human experience. As you read the poem, consider this question: Should we value our youth?

- [1] Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue¹ to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
- [5] Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden² sank to grief,
So Dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.



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1. **Hue** (*noun*): color
 2. The Garden of Eden, also known as Paradise, is (according to the Christian Bible) the place where Adam and Eve lived before they sinned and were cast out of Eden by God.

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. What does the color “gold” represent? [RL.3]

2. Why is gold “nature’s hardest hue to hold”? Explain your answer. [RL.2]

3. The pronoun “her” in lines 2 and 3 refers to what antecedent? [RL.4]

4. The poet gives three examples of how “nothing gold can stay.” What are they? [RL.1]

5. Translate the line, ‘nothing gold can stay.’ Explain this line in plain terms. [RL.4]
