Carol Ann Duffy’s Selected Poems
Quiz

A. Numbers
1. How old is “Lizzie”?
2. What year was the Captain part of the ‘Top of the Form’ team?
3. How old is Wayne in Comprehensive?
4. How much is the model paid in Standing Female Nude?
5. What was the date Mrs Darwin discovered the ‘Theory of Evolution’?

B. 1st line identify the poems the following lines come from:
1. “By Christ, he could bore for Purgatory”.
2. “Today we have a poet in the class.”
3. “Today I am going to kill something.”
4. “After I no longer speak they break our fingers/to salvage my wedding ring.”
5. “Things get away from one.”
6. “Imagine living in a strange, dark city for twenty years.”
7. “Next to my own skin, her pearls.”
8. “We came from our own country in a red room”.
10. “I like being small.”

C. Names
1. Who does “Big Sue” pretend to be?
2. What’s the name of the teacher who lets you “travel up the Blue Nile”?
3. Who finds a bullet?
4. What “Afternoons” does Duffy describe in her poem?
5. Who sculpted the “cup and saucer”

D. In the middle- identify the poems that have the following lines at their centre:
1. “Then he started his period”
2. “Till his name was no longer a certain spell/ for his face.”
3. “In London Town. / the faces you wrote/ leer and gape and plead at my feet”
5. “Away and see things that words give a name to, the/flight/of syllables, wingspan stretching a noun.”

E. Images
1. In which poem will you find the declaration, “I’m a mucky ghost”?
2. In which poem would you find the sentence, “Words come from nowhere, drift off / like the smoke from his pipe.”
3. What fruit does the speaker find in Lovesick?
4. “I remember my tongue shedding its skin like……….” complete the simile.
5. What is the “valentine” the speaker gives her lover?
6. What are compared to pebbles in Liar?
Carol Ann Duffy’s Selected Poem Quiz

F. Connections
1. What writer connects the speakers of Stealing and Education for Leisure?
2. Name three poems in the collection in which Duffy evokes the voice of an animal.
3. What connects Liverpool Echo, In Your Mind, Moments of Grace and Prayer?
4. Name three poems within the collection which seem to be dealing with the theme of adultery.
5. What falls from the sky in Stafford Afternoons and In Mrs Tischer’s Class? (two different things)
6. Which two poems have the names of family members in the title?

G. Complete the titles of the poems (one word needed):
1. I Remember
2. Whoever She
3. Dear
4. Dies
5. Selling
6. Miles
7. Weasel
8. Dream of a Lost
9. Who Loves
10. The Good

H. What do the following words mean and in which poems do they appear:
1. Charcuteries
2. Ocarina
3. Pseudonym
4. Caul
5. Mercenaries

I. In which poems does the speaker claim?
1. “I reached out my arms/ and you, hands on my breasts, kissed me.”
2. “She went out at noon and the ghost took her heart”
3. “You want him to fall, don’t you?”
4. “Then with their hands on the shovel/they would bury their dead.”
5. “You can do better than that, can’t you?”
6. “I close my eyes and imagine/the dark hills I would have to cross/to reach you.”

J. Which poem was inspired by a painting by Max Ernst?

K. Which poem contains the line, “Na na hey hey doo wah did”?

L. In which poem does Duffy graphically reflect the discrepancy between surface impressions and reality?

M. The end……..name the poems which end with the following final lines:
1. “BASTARDS”
2. “Tears over her lovely blotchy purple face. It got me.”
3. “Earning a living like.”
4. “These are the shortened days/and the endless nights.”
Carol Ann Duffy’s Selected Poems
Quiz (teacher’s sheet)

A. Numbers
1. How old is “Lizzie” Six
2. What year was the Captain part of the ‘Top of the Form’ team? 1964
3. How old is Wayne in Comprehensive? 14
4. How much is the model paid in Standing Female Nude? 12 francs
5. What was the date Mrs Darwin discovered the “Theory of Evolution”? 7/4/1852

B. 1st lines identify the poems the following lines come from:
1. “By Christ, he could bore for Purgatory”. Mrs Aesop
2. “Today we have a poet in the class.” Head of English
3. “Today I am going to kill something.” Education for Leisure
4. “After I no longer speak they break our fingers/to salvage my wedding ring.” Shooting Stars
5. “Things get away from one.” Recognition
6. “Imagine living in a strange, dark city for twenty years.” Foreign
7. “Next to my own skin, her pearls.” Warming Her Pearls
8. “We came from our own country in a red room”. Originally
10. “I like being small.” Boy

C. Names
1. Who does “Big Sue” pretend to be? Bette Davis
2. What’s the name of the teacher who lets you “travel up the Blue Nile”? Mrs Tilscher
3. Who finds a bullet? Eley
4. What “Afternoons” does Duffy describe in her poem? Stafford
5. Who sculpted the “cup and saucer”? Oppenheim

D. In the middle- identify the poems that have the following lines at their centre:
1. “Then he started his period” Mrs Tiresias
2. “Till his name was no longer a certain spell/ for his face.” Mrs Lazarus
3. “In London Town. / the faces you wrote/ leer and gape and plead at my feet” The Biographer
5. “Away and see things that words give a name to, the/flight/of syllables, wingspan stretching a noun.” Away and See

E. Images
1. In which poem will you find the declaration, “I’m a mucky ghost”? Stealing
2. In which poem would you find the sentence, “Words come from nowhere, drift off / like the smoke from his pipe?” Correspondents
3. What fruit does the speaker find in Lovesick? An apple
4. “I remember my tongue shedding its skin like……..” complete the simile. A snake (from Originally)
5. What is the “valentine” the speaker gives her lover? An onion
6. What are compared to pebbles in Liar? “Hyperbole, falsehood, fiction, fibs”
Carol Ann Duffy’s Selected Poem Quiz (teacher’s sheet)

F. Connections
1. What writer connects the speakers of Stealing and Education for Leisure? Shakespeare
2. Name three poems in the collection in which Duffy evokes the voice of an animal. Queen Kong, Die Natalis and The Dolphins
3. What connects Liverpool Echo, In Your Mind, Moments of Grace and Prayer? Both deal with the link between the past and present
4. Name three poems within the collection which seem to be dealing with the theme of adultery. Close, Adultery Telegrams, Correspondents (among others)
5. What falls from the sky in Stafford Afternoons and In Mrs Tischer’s Class? (two different things) Red ball and thunderstorm.
6. What two poems have the names of family members in the title? The Way My Mother Speaks and Brothers

G. Complete the titles of the poems (one word needed):
1. I Remember (Me)
2. Whoever She (Was)
3. Dear (Norman)
4. Dies (Natalis)
5. Selling (Manhattan)
6. Miles (Away)
7. Weasel (Words)
8. Dream of a Lost (Friend)
9. Who Loves (You)
10. The Good (Teachers)

H. What do the following words mean and in which poems do they appear:
1. charcuteries (A Healthy Meal)
2. ocarina (Small Female Skull)
3. pseudonym (Fraud)
4. caul (Caul)
5. mercenaries (Nostalgia)

I. In which poems does the speaker claim:
1. “I reached out my arms/ and you, hands on my breasts, kissed me.” (Girlfriends)
2. “She went out at noon and the ghost took her heart” (Girl Talking)
3. “You want him to fall, don’t you?” (Talent)
4. “Then with their hands on the shovel/they would bury their dead.” (And Then What)
5. “You can do better than that, can’t you?” (The Dummy)
6. “I close my eyes and imagine/the dark hills I would have to cross/to reach you.” (Words, Wide Night)

J. Which poem was inspired by a painting by Max Ernst? (The Virgin Punishing the Infant)

K. Which poem contains the line, “Na na hey hey doo wah did”? ($)

L. In which poem does Duffy graphically reflect the discrepancy between surface impressions and reality? The use of italics and normal type shows this in Model Village

M. The end……..name the poems which end with the following final lines:
1. “BASTARDS” (And How Are We Today?)
2. “Tears over her lovely blotchy purple face. It got me.” (Descendants)
3. “Earning a living like.” (Like Earning a Living)
4. “These are the shortened days/and the endless nights.” (Meantime)
5. “And then a desk. A newspaper. A window. English rain.” (In Your Mind)