

Task: Read the following poem and answer the questions.

The prince leans to the girl in scarlet heels,

Her green eyes slant, hair flaring in a fan

Of silver as the rondo slows; now reels

Begin on tilted violins to span

The whole revolving tall glass palace hall

Where guests slide gliding into light like wine;

Rose candles flicker on the lilac wall

Reflecting in a million flagons' shine,

And glided couples all in whirling trance

Follow holiday revel begun long since,

Until near twelve the strange girl all at once

Guilt-stricken halts, pales, clings to the prince

As amid the hectic music and cocktail talk

She hears the caustic ticking of the clock.

- What fairytale is the poet writing about? What words (or actions) assisted your decision?
- What do you think the title of this poem might be?
- Highlight the places where the semicolon is used. Write the two ideas that are closely connected in each example.
- Why do you think the poet has used semicolons in these two places and what effect does it have on the ideas communicated to the reader?
- How could the theme of the poem be relevant in today's context?
- Re-write the poem changing nouns that you feel make the poem more relevant for today's context. Include at least three semicolons.

An extra mark will be given for each complex punctuation mark that is correctly used. Some examples : semicolons, colons and dash.