

# The Poem

## Worksheet

Name: .....

Class: .....

Date: .....

### A. Answer the following questions.

- a. What is needed for the twig to become healthy and strong?
- b. In what ways will the twig develop if it is cared for?
- c. What is a closet and what might be found there?
- d. Is the closet mentioned in the poem used much? How do we know?
- e. Will the twig grow in a closet? Why?
- f. What is the twig compared to in the second stanza?

**This question is more difficult. Discuss it first.**

- g. Do you think the poet has a message (or messages) for the reader?

### B. Find where these expressions are used in the poem. Read the lines a number of times, and try to understand the meaning of the expressions. Explain the meaning in your own words.

- a. it is only a little twig
- b. and set it where the sun will

- c. thrust hither and thither
- d. recover themselves
- e. clash one upon another

**C. Answer the following questions with reference to context.**

*With mousetraps and blunted tools,  
It will shrivel and waste.*

- a. What does 'it' refer to?
- b. Where are the mousetraps and blunted tools?
- c. What might 'it' look like later if it is left with the mousetraps and blunted tools?

**D. Find words of the opposite meaning in the poem.**

- a. large                      b. short                      c. below                      d. few
- e. staleness                      f. sharpened                      g. strengthen                      h. straight
- i. still (not moving)                      j. close

**E. Think of suitable adjectives to go with these nouns. You may find one or two in the poem.**

- a. closet                      b. nail                      c. wind
- d. grass-blades                      e. roots                      f. leaves