

Name _____ Date _____ Per _____

maggie and milly and molly and may

maggie and milly and molly and may
went down to the beach (to play one day)

and maggie discovered a shell that sang
so sweetly she couldn't remember her troubles, and

5 milly befriended a stranded star
whose rays five languid fingers were;

and molly was chased by a horrible thing
which raced sideways while blowing bubbles: and

may came home with a smooth round stone
10 as small as a world and as large as alone.

For whatever we lose (like a you or a me)
it's always ourselves we find in the sea

ee cummings

Short Answer Questions

- _____ 1. How many stanzas in the poem?
- _____ 2. How many times is the word "and" used throughout the poem?
- _____ 3. When did the event described in the poem occur?
- _____ 4. Where is a metaphor? Which lines?
- _____ 5. Where is personification used? Which line?
- _____ 6. Where is a simile? Which lines?
- _____ 7. Where is alliteration found? Identify the words.
- _____ 8. Where is there a good use of contrast? Which line?
- _____ 9. What is the poem's rhythm?

Digging deeper – respond to the following questions

1. Why does the poem begin and end with a rhyme?

2. What does the poem suggest to us about maggie?

3. Milly befriends a *stranded star*? What does *star* represent... a starfish or a star in space? Why?

4. What is chasing molly? Why is it said to be *horrible*?

5. What does the stone represent to may?

6. What does the final stanza suggest?

Symbolism

7. The poem takes place at the beach where there is **sand**...what might that suggest or symbolize?

8. Not only does the poem have a beach...there is a **sea**. What might the sea symbolize in the poem?

9. What is a theme for the poem? Please explain your answer.

