

**Questions on Tear, Idle Tears by Lord Alfred Tennyson:**

1. What is the nature of the tears in this poem? What is their cause and source?
2. What does the speaker mean when he states, "Tears from the depth of some divine despair" (2)? What does the phrase "divine despair" mean?
3. What is it about the days that are past that causes the speaker to weep? How does he describe those days? Is he idealizing the past?
4. What is the tone of the speaker? Is he despairing in the poem? Does he reach a decision or resolution at the conclusion of the poem?
5. What is meant by the phrase at the conclusion of the poem, "O Death in Life" (20)?