

Language Arts: Sample Item**Questions 4**

This item has the following characteristics:

Strand: Reading

Objectives: Use context clues to clarify understanding during reading

Make inferences using text clues

Analyze how messages, moods, feelings, and attitudes are conveyed in stories, poetry and prose using inference and deduction in reference to the text interpret messages, moods, feelings and attitudes conveyed in stories, poetry and prose.

Item Type: Constructed Response

About this Item Type: This item type requires students to produce an explanation in order to collect evidence about their knowledge of understanding of the given assessment tasks.

Read this poem and the prompt that follows it.

Nature

*We have neither summer nor winter
neither autumn nor spring. We have
instead the days when the gold sun
shines on the lush canefields -
magnificently. The days when the rain
beats like bullets on the roofs and there
is no sound but the swish of water in the
gullies and trees struggling in the high
Jamaica winds.*

*Also, there are the days when leaves
fade from off guango trees and the
reaped canefields lie bare and fallow
to the sun. But best of all, there are the
days when the mango and the
logwood blossom When bushes are full
of the sound of bees and the scent of
honey. When the tall grass sways and
shivers to the slightest breath of air.
When the buttercups* have paved the earth with yellow
stars and beauty comes suddenly, and the rains have
gone.*

H. D. CARBERRY

- Buttercups-large flowering plant with shiny, yellow petals

Explain what is meant by “**When the buttercups have paved the earth with yellow stars**”. Use details from the poem to support your response.
