

Sylvia Plath
Mushrooms
Some challenging questions

Worksheet by:
Keith Tankard
Knowledge4Africa.com

1. *"Overnight, very
Whitely, discreetly,
Very quietly"*
 - Comment on the poet's references to quietness. (4)
 - Not only do these lines convey the idea of silence but also of stealth. Can you explain how or why? (4)

2. *"Nobody sees us,
Stops us, betrays us;
The small grains make room."*
 - Comment on the concept of stealth and betrayal in this verse. (4)

3. *"Soft fists insist on
Heaving the needles,
The leafy bedding"*
 - Be able to explain an "oxymoron" and show how it is used in this verse. (4)

4. *"Diet on water
On crumbs of shadow,
Bland-mannered, asking

Little or nothing,
So many of us!
So many of us!"*
 - What image is the poet conjuring here? (4)
 - Why does the poet repeat the words, "So many of us!?" (2)

<www.knowledge4africa.com>

This worksheet is copyrighted. No part of it may be copied or printed in any form whatever without the express permission in writing of the author. The sole exception is for non-profit educational purposes.