

Rain

Name: _____

Read the passage. Answer the questions in complete sentences.

It starts as almost nothing,
a tapping on the glass,
the kind of sound you only hear
when other sounds have passed.

Then harder, and then harder,
till gutters start to sing,
and every leaf is nodding
at the same green, dripping thing.

And after, when it finishes,
the street is washed and new,
and everything smells greener
than it ever gets to do.

Poem · 64 words

1. What sound does the rain make at the start of the poem?

2. Which words at the ends of lines rhyme?

3. The poet writes that the gutters "sing". What does that mean?

4. How does the poem change from beginning to end?

Rain — Answer Key

1. A tapping on the glass. (*Recall*)
2. glass / passed, sing / thing, new / do. (*Rhyme*)
3. The water running through them makes a steady sound, as if the gutters were singing. Giving an object a human action like this is called personification. (*Figurative language*)
4. It begins with a small quiet sound, builds to heavy rain, and ends after the rain with everything washed and fresh. (*Structure*)