At the pool where we used to swim
In Cooks Brook
Not everyone had guts enough
To dive from the top ledge

Not that it would have been
A difficult dive
Except for the shelf of rock
That lay two feet below the surface
And reached quarter of the way out

Into the width of the pool

One by one the brave few of us
Would climb the cliff to the ledge
And stand poised
Ready to plunge headfirst

Into the dark water below
And always there was that moment
of terror
When you’d doubt that you could
Clear the shelf

Knowing full well
It would be better to die
Skull smashed open in the water
Than it would be to climb
Backwards down to the beach

So always there was that moment
When you prayed for wings
Then sailed arms outspread into the buoyant air
What you feel is something
Impossible to describe

As the water parts like a wound
To engulf you
Then closes just as quickly
In a white scar where you entered

And you are surprised always
To find yourself alive
Following the streaks of sunlight
That lead you gasping to the surface
Where you make your way
Leisurely to shore

As though there had been nothing to it
As though it was every day of the week
You daringly defied the demons
Who lived so terribly
In the haunted hours of your sleep

Selected Response

Circle the letter of the correct or best response.

8. What is the poetic form of “Cooks Brook”?
   (A) blank verse
   (B) free verse
   (C) haiku
   (D) sonnet

9. What point of view is used?
   (E) first person
   (F) second person
   (G) third person limited
   (H) third person omniscient

10. Which literary device is used in line 30?
    (A) alliteration
    (B) assonance
    (C) metaphor
    (D) simile

11. Which literary devise is used in lines 36-37?
    (A) alliteration
    (B) allusion
    (C) personification
    (D) simile
12. Which of the following best defines the word “buoyant” in line 27?

(A) able to keep afloat
(B) heavy
(C) light-hearted
(D) weightless

13. Which of the following motivates the jump from the top ledge?

(A) courage
(B) fear
(C) pride
(D) stupidity

**Constructed Response Items**

Value 6%

14. With two specific references, explain how the author’s diction (word choice) creates effective visual imagery?

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15. Using two references from the poem, please explain the main internal conflict the diver faces?

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