



**Reading – Day 5**

**Untouched**

As light breaks through the quickly fading darkness,  
I look out and see a white sheet, a blank slate, an empty page.  
This white is not paper on which I will write.  
Nor is it a crisp, new bed sheet upon which I will lie.  
It is a blanket of white, covering the land beneath it,  
Not touched by anyone or anything.  
Even the howling wind has had little effect.  
No footprints mark the tracks of excited children,  
The birds have not yet had chance to create their prints.  
It lies there - simply waiting.  
Waiting for someone who can no longer resist temptation,  
At once they must mark the page, ruffle the bed sheets.  
No longer does my slate remain blank.  
Shrieks and shouts will echo as it is gathered up to make a frosty friend,  
And laughter will still ring out, even after hands are numb and cheeks are chilled.  
Although the image of the smooth white canvas has been destroyed,  
I will always remember it.

1. Which of these things do you think the poet is describing?

Tick one.

- snow
- a piece of paper
- a bedsheet

1 mark

2. Who, or what, do you think 'a frosty friend' (line 13) could be?

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 mark

3. Tick in the boxes to show whether the following statements are **true** or false.

	True	False
The wind has changed something about this white sheet		
The white sheet that is being described makes people cold		
The poet cannot remember what the untouched whiteness looks like		

2 marks

4. Why do you think the writer has called this poem, 'Untouched'?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2 marks

5. What information is in the poem that suggests the poet was looking out at the whiteness early in the morning?

---

---

---

---

*2 marks*

6. What has changed by the end of the poem?

---

---

*1 mark*

7. Find two examples of alliteration being used in this poem.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

*1 mark*