

“Choose Something Like a Star” Discussion Questions

Though by no means an exhaustive guide to “Choose Something Like a Star,” these questions can help focus readers on important issues that will support language study.

1. What does the speaker want from the star? How does the speaker react to the star’s response?
2. What can readers infer about the identity of the speaker? What traits does the speaker seem to possess? Who is the “we” of the poem?
3. What does the star ask of “us?”
4. “Keats’ Eremite” is a reference to the steadfast star in John Keats’ poem “Bright Star,” in which a star watches eternally the changeable activity on earth: the tide, snowfall, human love. What might the star signify symbolically?
5. Characterize the language of the poem. Formal or informal? Casual or planned and thought out? Reserved or passionate?