

## Task for *Sun Music*

### Questions on 'The Domesticity of Giraffes'

1. What is the persona's attitude to the subject of this poem? How do you know?
2. Gather the ten most evocative quotes from the poem in the following table:

Quote	Language features / language technique	Effect
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

3. Comment on the tactile images that are repeated throughout this poem, forming a motif (hint: wire).
4. Compare the two images of birds in the poem. What is the effect of this juxtaposition?
5. The confronting image towards the end of the poem needs some explaining. Usually, male giraffes sniff or taste the urine of female giraffes to detect whether they are

ready to mate. Here, the female drinks the male's urine. Why would Beveridge include this reversal of the natural order here? What is the effect of this?

6. 'Euphony' is the quality of being pleasing to the ear. Read the last two lines of the poem aloud. What aspects of these two lines create a lack of euphony? Why might a poet, whose work is renowned for its musical qualities, have done this? How is this appropriate to the subject matter of the poem?
7. Consider this statement:

'The Domesticity of Giraffes' sets up a number of dichotomies: captive vs free, natural vs man-made. At the same time, Beveridge plays with these dichotomies, making comparisons with the man-made even while describing the natural animal and her behaviour, to emphasise the giraffe's captivity.

Continue on from here and write a paragraph or two demonstrating how Beveridge does this, analysing ample textual evidence and explaining the impact on the poem's overall meaning.