

Close Reading Questions for “Mending Wall”

By Robert Frost (page 1002)

Set up ONE paper for both partners with the proper MLA heading and provide a title.

1. **Lines 1-4:** The first line tells us there is something that doesn't love a wall or something that can break down a wall. The next 3 lines tell us what that thing is. What is it? (key words – two can pass abreast)
2. **Lines 5-9:** This section tells us another way the wall can be broken down. What is it? (key word – hunters)
3. There are two people in the poem: The narrator and the neighbor. These two people are a foil of each other. What is a foil? (look it up in the “Glossary of Literary Terms” in the textbook, unless you already know what it is!)
 - a. Provide at least four characteristics of each person.
 - b. Provide lines from the poem which resembles what each person feels about the wall/fence. (provide at least one line for each person)
4. **Lines 23-26:** One person tries to convince the other to take the wall down. Why is there no practical need for the wall?
5. **Line 24:** How could this line be representative of each person?
6. **Line 27:** What need does the neighbor see for the wall?
7. **Lines 38-42:** What is the narrator's opinion of his neighbor?
8. Which person would you rather have as a neighbor? Why?
9. What are the basic themes or metaphors of the poem? Think about both perspectives presented to you through each person and come up with two themes or metaphors.
10. **Title:** The phrase “mending fences” means to repair relationships. But Frost uses “mending wall” instead. What could be the reason he used wall instead of fence?
11. **Meter:** What is meter? (look it up if you don't know) How do you find meter? (look it up if you don't know) What is the meter of this poem?
12. **Literary Elements:** Find examples of alliteration and assonance.

