**The Moths**

1. a. What three words are used to describe the snow, sleet and moths in the first line of the poem?

b. What other natural phenomenon might these three words also be used to describe?

c. Why do you think Stewart has made such a connection between these parts of the natural world?

1. What mood is created in the opening line and how is this created?
2. What words soften the tone of the second line of the poem?
3. Lines 3-5 establish a number of contrasts. What are these? For each describe the effect created.
4. a. The tea tree is presented as being old and decrepit. How is this image established?

b. How does the behaviour of this old tree contradict our images of old age?

6) What words help to establish a mood of energy and movement in relation to the clouds of moths?

7) What phrase in the poem creates the idea that there are some very visual aspects of nature that go unnoticed by humans.

8) The disappearance of the moths after their brief stay in this natural environment is communicated in the line ‘nothing is left of the mountains now, nothing is left of time.’

What words convey a sense of finality?

9) The last two lines communicate the idea that the visual experience of the moths in the blossoming boughs of the tea tree are all but a memory now. How is this conveyed in these two lines?