# Task:

# The poem below contains 9 pairs of words that are easily identifiable because they are in bold and italics. Only ONE of the two words in each pair belongs in the poem. Circle the word from each pair you believe is the most appropriate for the poem.

* **After you have made each of your choices select FOUR of the words you have chosen and explain why you made that choice.**

# The Snow-Gum

## Douglas Stewart

It is the snow-gum ***silently/magically***,

In noon’s blue and the silvery

Flowering of ***light/petals*** on snow.

Performing its slow miracle

Where upon drift and ***icicle/storm***

Perfect lies its shadow.

Leaf upon leaf’s fidelity,

The creamy trunk’s ***strength/solidity,***

The full-grown curve of the crown,

It is the tree’s ***perfection/likeness***

Now shown in clear reflection

Like ***shards/flakes*** of soft grey stone.

Out of the granite’s eternity,

Out of the winter’s ***long/mighty*** enmity,

Something is done on the snow;

And the silver light like ecstasy

***Flows/shines*** where the green tree perfectly

Curves to its ***perfect/dark*** shadow.

**Questions:**

1. Identify the word in the poem that convey a sense of movement or action.
2. What word is repeated throughout the poem? Why do you think Stewart has employed this repetition?
3. There are a number of word with religious connotations in the poem. What are these and what impressions do they create about the snowgum and its reflection on the snow?