**The Fireflies**

1. What is unexpected about the first word of this poem? What impression does this create for the reader as the poem begins?
2. The first seven lines of the poem set the reader up to believe that the source of the light is man. What words or phrases establish this? What descriptions may make the reader suspect that it is not man who is the source of the illumination?
3. What senses are being appealed to in these first seven lines. Explain how this is established.
4. Line 8 corrects the mistake of the first seven lines. Describe the tone of this line and explain how this tone is established.
5. The poem has abandoned the simile that the fireflies are man but has retained the image of the fireflies as an army. Quote the line that makes this clear. How else has the last half of the poem established a likeness between the fireflies and an army?
6. What senses are being appealed to in the last half of the poem? Explain how this is established.
7. How does the description of the fireflies in the poem contrast with the description of the earth?
8. How does the poem establish in line 12 that the exact identity of the fireflies is difficult to establish? Why do you think one might encounter this difficulty?
9. What double meaning is attached to the word ‘brilliance’ in line 12?
10. What three words in the last two lines establish how unlike man the fireflies really are?