

When you can pipe that merry old strain,  
Robert of Lincoln, come back again.  
Chee, chee, chee.

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

What is the poem about?

Read the first stanza. Where was Robert of Lincoln? What was he doing? What word would be used in prose instead of *mead*? What do the fifth and sixth lines tell? What are the two following lines about? What is meant by the nest's being *snug*? What is meant by its being *safe*? What are the closing words of the song?

Read the second stanza. What does the first line tell? What is the use of the second and third lines? What is meant by *his crest*? What is the hearer requested to do in the fourth line? What is the song about?

Read the third stanza. What are the first four lines about? Why is she called a *Quaker wife*? Which words describe her appearance? What does the wife do? Where does she brood? What does her husband sing to her?

Read the fourth stanza. What are contrasted in the first four lines? To what is the wife compared? What is said about her singing? What is the husband called? What are his words?

Read the fifth stanza. How many eggs are spoken of? Of what color were they? What did the mother do all day? What did Robert do?

Read the sixth stanza. What is the meaning of *chip*? What happened when the shells were chipped? What did Robert do then? What was his song now?

Read the seventh stanza. How did the work and care affect Robert? What is meant by *laying off his holiday garment*?

*Ans.* Changing his color.

What was half-forgotten? What is meant by *mate* in the seventh line? By *nestlings* in the eighth line?