Use your English

Grade 11 - unseen literature skills

Name: _____ Date: _____

Plan before you begin

Check the audience, purpose and required length. Organise your ideas, write or speak, then check meaning and accuracy.
Example: A clear paragraph has one main idea with useful supporting detail.
Complete both activities. Plan your ideas first. Use your own details when requested. Continue on another sheet if needed.
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Try it yourself

1. Write an analytical paragraph of 80-100 words explaining how the poem develops one theme. Use two short quotations and explain each.

2. Write six original lines about a small act of kindness or an unfinished shared task. Underline one image and explain its intended effect.

A pause in the work

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Understand the idea

Read once for the main idea. Read again to find the detail or evidence needed for each answer.
Example: A question beginning Why needs a reason supported by the text.
Read this original EWS poem. Notice the relationship between unfinished work and shared responsibility. A critical answer should examine a language choice, explain a possible effect and recognise that more than one supported interpretation may be valid.
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Original EWS poem: The Last Plank
One plank lay waiting by the stream;
Our hands were tired, the daylight thin.
"We'll finish soon," the eldest said,
Then rain returned and drove us in.
At dawn we found three neighbours there,
Holding the bridge we meant to share.
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Try it yourself

1. How does the ending change the focus from the original workers to the wider community?

2. Discuss one effect of "the daylight thin". Do not treat the phrase as a scientific description.

3. Write a short critical paragraph on how the poem presents an unfinished task. Use two brief quotations and explain how the ending qualifies or develops your reading.