

A googled Earth

At your desktop, gaze down from altitude to read
textures of terrain: humps, rents and contoured canyons.

A panorama of rivers meandering across our fragile Earth
the evidence of ancient cataclysms that pushed up mountains.

Can you see the wispy clouds that stretch in vain to cover
a vast globe, desperate to make rain for all the continents?

5

Zoom in to immense cities where insatiable multitudes surge,
competing and consuming. From birth we strip the Earth.

Skyscrapers rise ever higher, see them growing as you watch,
ravenously eating, depleting resources, no one counts the cost.

10

Greed gouges out the forests where species live and feed
while humans, never content, take more than we need.

Can you see the glaciers retreating, the ice sheets shrinking
as sea levels and temperatures rise? Island nations fear demise.

And in polluted oceans sea creatures choke and tangle
in a massive dump of debris morphed and massed together.

15

A floating plastic soup of swirling, wanton waste
a new continent of chairs, kayaks, carry bags, bottles, cables.

One hundred million tonnes of flotsam carried on the currents
circling the globe must at some time come full circle.

20

Cool in air-conditioned comfort, watch as dusty deserts grow
relentlessly droughts steal water, making mosaics of dried mud.

Click on pastures that are toxic, click on rivers running dry,
click on rainforests gone to logging, on starved, skeletal trees.

Now, google your street view, without having to leave your room
watch yourself through the window oblivious in the gloom.

25

Sheryl Persson



49. Which of the following words from the poem is used as an adjective?
- (A) 'tangle' (line 15)
 (B) 'swirling' (line 17)
 (C) 'carried' (line 19)
 (D) 'running' (line 23)
50. In line 18, why does the poet describe the waste as a 'new continent'?
- (A) The huge amount of waste appears like a large land mass.
 (B) Scientists are considering using the waste to create habitable land.
 (C) The variety of discarded objects is equivalent to the variety of land masses.
 (D) The floating waste will inevitably create a large new land mass.
51. Which quotation from the poem is a literal description?
- (A) 'ravenously eating, depleting resources' (line 10)
 (B) 'Greed gouges out the forests' (line 11)
 (C) 'sea creatures choke and tangle' (line 15)
 (D) 'relentlessly droughts steal water' (line 22)
52. Which two words from the poem are used as synonyms?
- (A) 'altitude' (line 1) and 'panorama' (line 3)
 (B) 'meandering' (line 3) and 'retreating' (line 13)
 (C) 'massive' (line 16) and 'massed' (line 16)
 (D) 'debris' (line 16) and 'flotsam' (line 19)
53. It can be inferred from the poem that the poet thinks that
- (A) people need to move out of cities to conserve energy.
 (B) waste can be used to create new homes for sea creatures.
 (C) environmental degradation is an issue that needs addressing.
 (D) technology can be used to encourage people to take environmental action.
54. The phrase 'come full circle' (line 20) has two meanings. One is that the flotsam will float around the globe back to its starting point. The other is that
- (A) accumulated rubbish will return to have an impact on humans.
 (B) the contents will eventually decay to form their basic components.
 (C) the waste mass will circle around all the continents of the world.
 (D) the mass of flotsam will eventually reach one hundred million tonnes.
55. Both the article *Forum: Crying wolf* on page 14 and the poem *A googled Earth* on page 16 refer to a large mass of waste in the ocean. In which way does the reference to this differ between texts?

	Article	Poem
(A)	uses it as an example of inaccurate reporting	uses it to shock
(B)	uses it to illustrate public antipathy towards the environment	uses it to encourage action
(C)	uses it to demonstrate the poor quality of scientific investigation	refers to it in a purely metaphorical sense
(D)	refers to it as a hoax	presents it as an accepted fact