Journey’s End

Zora Neale Hurston | Grades 6 to 12

Complete poem and inquiry

First Name

Last Name

1 Ah! let me rest, when I have done,
2 Beneath a warming, stirring sun,
3 Beneath a flower studded sod
4 That shows the smiling face of God.
5 In kindly earth that comfort gave,
6 A kindly couch where dreams the brave,
7 Where longing hurries weeping grief,
8 where halting goes the gilded chief.
9 Sweet spring will trail a bridal veil,
10 Grim frost shall lose his howl and wail,
11 And summer flowers deck my breast
12 And sunlight gild me from the west.
13 But I shall rise with verdant spring,
14 And I shall speak when song birds sing,
15 And laughing ripple in the streams,
16 And flit and flicker on the beams.
17 Ah! let me rest when I have done.
18 When I my earthly course have run,
19 And wake me not to shame or blame,
20 Nor stir my dust with flore of flame.

Complete public domain poem. Numbered poetic lines support citation. Original poetic punctuation is retained. Source details appear in the teacher guide.

How do images of rest and seasonal renewal work together rather than simply cancel one another?