

RW question 3

"Ghosts of the Old Year" is an early 1900s poem by James Weldon Johnson. In the poem, the speaker describes experiencing an ongoing cycle of anticipation followed by regretful reflection: _____

Which quotation from "Ghosts of the Old Year" most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A) "The snow has ceased its fluttering flight, / The wind sunk to a whisper light, / An ominous stillness fills the night, / A pause—a hush."
- B) "And so the years go swiftly by, / Each, coming, brings ambitions high, / And each, departing, leaves a sigh / Linked to the past."
- C) "What does this brazen tongue declare, / That falling on the midnight air / Brings to my heart a sense of care / Akin to fright?"
- D) "It tells of many a squandered day, / Of slighted gems and treasured clay, / Of precious stores not laid away, / Of fields unrequited."

Key	B
Domain	Information and Ideas
Skill	Command of Evidence (Textual)

Key Explanation: **Choice B** is the best answer. The quotation addresses both aspects of the claim: cycles of anticipation ("Each, coming, brings ambitions high") and regretful reflection ("And each, departing, leaves a sigh / Linked to the past").

Distractor Explanations: **Choice A** is incorrect because the quotation focuses on anticipation ("An ominous stillness fills the night, / A pause—a hush") but not regretful reflection. **Choice C** is incorrect because the quotation focuses on worry and anxiety ("... a sense of care / Akin to fright?") rather than anticipation and regretful reflection. **Choice D** is incorrect because the quotation focuses on regretful reflection ("It tells of many a squandered day") but not anticipation.