Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“The Sound of Birds at Noon”

1. In lines 1-2, how does the speaker characterize the song of the birds?

2. Why might this characterization surprise readers?

3. What two things are compared in lines 4-5?

4. What impression does this simile create?

5. In lines 6-11, which of the birds’ qualities impress the speaker?

6. Why might the speaker admire these particular qualities?

7. How does line 17 echo lines 1-2?

8. What effect does this echo create?

9. How does line break in line 18 affect your understanding of the poem’s time frame?

10. Based on the last line of the poem, do you think the speaker would advocate a change brought about by violence? Explain.

Enjambment

1. In what lines of “The Sound of Birds at Noon” does Ravikovitch use enjambment?

2. How do the line breaks give the poem a conversational quality?

Author’s Purpose

1. How might lines 10-11 reveal Ravikovitch’s purpose?

2. Why do you think Ravikovitch ended the poem with the words “a note of compassion”?