

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Beyond The Price

**Directions:** Read both passages carefully. Think about what message each text sends about materialism and consumer habits. Use evidence from both passages to answer the questions that follow.

### *Nonfiction Article Excerpt: "The True Cost of Fast Fashion"*

Fast fashion brands release new clothing lines every few weeks, encouraging people to buy more than they need. Shirts are sold for the price of a cup of coffee, tempting shoppers with low costs but hiding the real expense. Behind each cheap garment lies an invisible chain of labor exploitation and environmental damage. Factories in developing nations often pay workers less than a living wage while producing fabrics that pollute rivers with dyes and chemicals. Consumers enjoy the thrill

of a bargain, but the long-term cost to the planet and to human dignity is far greater than the price tag suggests.

### *Poem: "The Shiny Window"*

Glass lit bright, the mannequins grin,  
Whispers of want call us in.  
Hands reach out, though hearts  
grow hollow,  
More, and more, we blindly follow.

Bags grow heavy, spirits thin,  
Empty treasures stacked within.  
The mirror shows a fleeting gleam,  
But fades to dust—an empty dream.

### Text Synthesis Questions

1. What is the main critique of materialism in Passage A (the article)?
2. What is the main critique of materialism in Passage B (the poem)?
3. How do both passages show that materialism brings hidden costs beyond the surface appeal?
4. Compare the **tone** of the article and the poem. How does each genre (nonfiction vs. poetry) shape the message?
5. In a short paragraph (4-5 sentences), synthesize the two texts. Explain how they work together to criticize consumerism, using evidence from both.