

A Learning Challenge — *The Face in the Mirror*

The Face in the Mirror by Robert Graves

Grey haunted eyes, absent-mindedly glaring
From wide, uneven orbits; one brow _____
Somewhat over the eye
Because of a missile _____ still inhering,
Skin deep, as a _____ record of old-world fighting.

Crookedly broken nose — low _____ caused it;
 Cheeks, furrowed; coarse grey hair, flying frenetic;
 Forehead, _____ and high;
 Jowls, prominent; ears, large; jaw, pugilistic;
 Teeth, few; lips, full and _____; mouth, ascetic.

I pause with razor poised, scowling _____
At the mirrored man whose beard needs _____ attention,
And once more ask him why
He still stands ready, with a boy's presumption,
To _____ the queen in her high silk pavilion.

Can you imagine words to fill the gaps?

In what ways is the author a reflective person?

How well does he know himself?

What does he think of himself?

What has he learnt about himself as he has grown older?