Dead Fires

Jessie Redmon Fauset | Grades 6 to 12

Complete poem and inquiry

First Name

Last Name

1 If this is peace, this dead and leaden thing,
2 Then better far the hateful fret, the sting.
3 Better the wound forever seeking balm
4 Than this gray calm!

5 Is this pain's surcease? Better far the ache,
6 The long drawn dreary day, the night's white wake,
7 Better the choking sigh, the sobbing breath
8 Than passion's death!

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

How does the poem complicate the usual positive meaning of peace?