

Name _____

Atlas

It is light at first,
A feat of strength.
You are exuberant—
The world itself is buoyed by your pride.
You are marvelous,
Tireless,
Undefeatable.
But time bears down
And one day your shoulders ache
From holding up the world.
How quickly the weight
Presses down on you
When first you flinch—
It bears against that momentary fissure of doubt
And your strength begins to ebb.
Still you heave, up against
What crushes you relentlessly—
Dispassionately—
As if you are not there
It drives you into the ground
Another obstacle removed. . .
And rolls.



1. Explain the title of this poem. _____

2. What do you think this poem is about? _____

3. Discuss how the words the poet uses support your answer. _____
