Read the following poem carefully and then answer the questions set.

‘Passing a Truck Full of Chickens at Night on Highway Eighty’ by Jane Mead

What struck me first was their panic.

Some were pulled by the wind from moving
to the ends of the stacked cages,
some had their heads blown through the bars-
and could not get them in again.
Some hung there like that - dead -
their own feathers blowing, clotting
in their faces. Then
I saw the one that made me slow some -
I lingered there beside her for about 5 miles.

She had pushed her head through the space
between bars - to get a better view.
She had the look of a dog in the back
of a pickup, that eager look of a dog
who knows she’s being taken along.
She craned her neck.

She looked around, watched me, then
strained to see over the car - strained
to see what happened beyond.

That is the chicken I want to be.

a. Comment on the “structure” of the poem. You may also wish to refer to the function of the first verse as well as to any major shifts in focus in the poem. [2]

b. What aspects of the chicken “that made [the persona] slow some” does the poet focus on? Comment on the poet’s use of language in the characterisation of this chicken. [3]

c. While commenting on the significance of the final verse – “That is the chicken I want to be” – discuss what may be seen as some of the most important “thematic motifs” in the poem. [3]

d. Comment on the “tone” of voice projected by the persona of the poem. [2]