Funeral blues/stop all the clocks W. H. Auden

Watch the famous scene in Four Weddings and a Funeral in which one of the characters recites "Funeral Blues"

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DDXWclpGhcg)

Stop all the clocks, ___________ the telephone,
Prevent the dog from ___________ with a juicy bone,
Silence the pianos and with muffled ___________
Bring out the ____________, let the mourners come.

Let aeroplanes circle ___________ overhead
_____________ on the sky the message He Is Dead,
Put crepe bows round the white necks of the public _______,
Let the traffic policemen wear black cotton _________.

He was my North, my South, my East and West,
My working week and my Sunday ________,
My ___________, my midnight, my talk, my song;
I thought that love would last forever: I was wrong.

The stars are not wanted now: put out every one;
Pack up the moon and ____________ the sun;
____________ away the ocean and sweep up the wood.
For nothing now can ever come to any good.

Comprehension Questions

1. After completing and reading the poem, write a caption to describe the content of each stanza:

Stanza 1__________________________________________________
Stanza 2__________________________________________________
Stanza 3__________________________________________________
Analysis Questions

1. To whom does the speaker address his poem? How can you tell? What's the effect of this point of view?
2. Find the personification in the second stanza.
3. Analyze the metaphors used in lines 9 and 14. Why do you think the speaker wants to remove the moon and the sun?
4. How does the narrator use objects to represent feelings within this poem? What external elements does the narrator want to control? [clocks, telephones, dogs, piano, scribbling on the sky, moon and sun, ocean and wood]
5. Describe the poet’s attitude in line 12.
6. Describe how the hyperbole in the last line adds to the poem.
7. After watching the scene in Four Weddings and a Funeral in which one of the characters recites "Funeral Blues." Does this rendition of the poem change the way that you think about it?

TASK

In groups of five, write a poem using the first word in each of the verses of Funeral Blues. It doesn’t necessarily have to be a dirge!!