

American Literature Quiz 1

On a Scantron, bubble in the best answer for each of the following questions.

1. The following is the focus for this year's curriculum

- A. What it means to be an American
- B. The American Dream as it has been portrayed in literature
- C. Fiction and non-fiction texts written by a variety of American authors from America's inception to now.
- D. all of the above
- E. only B

2. Which is a list of terms that you must know in order to successfully complete a "Reader's Companion?"

- A. genre, point of view, setting, plot
- B. summary, theme, set-up, rising action, climax and resolution
- C. both A and B
- D. none of the above

3. The central theme of a text is

- A. the main lesson learned by the protagonist by the end of the story
- B. the author's purpose
- C. the author's message
- D. both A and B
- E. both A and C

4. The tone of a text is

- A. the reader's attitude toward the author
- B. the author's attitude toward the subject of the text
- C. the mood of the reader when experiencing the text
- D. none of the above

5. The following excerpt is written from which point of view?

It was hard for him to understand that he actually had to abandon it – it was ridiculous – and he began to curse. Of all the papers on his desk, why did it have to be this one in particular?!

- A. third person limited, whereby the thoughts and feelings of the protagonist are exposed and focused on
- B. first person, whereby the narrator speaks directly about his or her own life
- C. second person
- D. both A and C
- E. none of the above

6. Symbolism is

- A. when one thing represents another thing, exactly like a simile
- B. when a material object represents an abstract idea, like a bird representing freedom, a fish representing life or the color green representing envy
- C. used to add layers of depth and meaning to a text
- D. both A and C
- E. both B and C

7. A student of literature should be aware of which three types of irony?

- A. verbal, physical and circumstantial
- B. dramatic, situational and verbal
- C. sarcastic, sardonic and situational
- D. dramatic, presentational and obsolete
- E. none of the above

8. The definition of dramatic irony is

- A. when a character has a change of heart and no one but the character knows about it
- B. when the reader or audience knows something about a character and his situation that the character doesn't know
- C. when something surprising happens to the character that was not even foreshadowed
- D. when you say one thing but mean another, as in sarcasm
- E. none of the above

9. The definition of verbal irony is

- A. when a character has a change of heart and no one but the character knows about it
- B. when the reader or audience knows something about a character and his situation that the character doesn't know
- C. when something surprising happens to the character that was not even foreshadowed
- D. when you say one thing but mean another, as in sarcasm
- E. none of the above

10. Which of the following sentences aptly exemplifies situational irony?

- A. a bus-boy who drops dishes five days in a row gets fired
- B. a sheep who complains about being shaved for his wool later opens his own sweater shop
- C. a man steps on a rusty nail
- D. a woman who is an active member of the organization Guns are Bad works hard to stop the sale of guns

11. The meaning of the word metaphor is

- A. the layer of rock just above the magma layer
- B. a comparison between two things, drawing attention to their similarities, e.g., "school is prison"
- C. the comparison of two unlike things, using "like" or "as"
- D. something that means nothing
- E. none of the above

12. The significance of the word oxymoron is

- A. a term or phrase that is like an analogy but is not really
- B. a clause that begins with a subordinator
- C. a term or phrase that contains two similar elements, for example: hard rock
- D. a comparison between two things, drawing attention to their similarities
- E. a term or phrase that is made of two opposing elements, for example: cold hotplate

13. An example of an idiom is

- A. She is quite tall.
- B. It's raining cats and dogs.
- C. both A and B
- D. none of the above

14. Which of the following exemplifies hyperbole?
- A. You weigh a ton!
 - B. She often listens.
 - C. He eats a bit more than usual when he's depressed.
 - D. I told you before; I'm pretty certain.
 - E. B, C and D

15. What is the typical plot structure of a narrative?
- A. exposition; rising action; climax; falling action; denouement
 - B. set-up; rising action; climax; resolution
 - C. beginning, middle, end
 - D. all of the above
 - E. none of the above

Read the following poem and answer four related questions that follow.

April 18 by Sylvia Plath

the slime of all my yesterdays
rots in the hollow of my skull

and if my stomach would contract
because of some explicable phenomenon
such as pregnancy or constipation

I would not remember you

or that because of sleep
infrequent as a moon of green cheese
that because of food
nourishing as violet leaves
that because of these

and in a few fatal yards of grass
in a few spaces of sky and treetops

a future was lost yesterday
as easily and irretrievably
as a tennis ball at twilight

16. The tone of the poem is arguably
- A. subtle
 - B. angry
 - C. melancholic
 - D. teasing

17. The author of the poem is likely referring to
- A. a recent birth
 - B. her own imminent death
 - C. an unexpected death
 - D. the slow passing of time

18. The author's tone is intensified by which literary device?

- A. rhythm
- B. rhyme
- C. onomatopoeia
- D. diction
- E. A, B and D

19. Which verb tense and/or mood is NOT used in the poem?

- A. future
- B. past
- C. conditional
- D. present

20. Which of the following is NOT an American author and will therefore not be on our reading list this year?

- A. John Steinbeck
- B. Christopher Marlowe
- C. William Shakespeare
- D. both A and B
- E. both B and C

21. Which of the following is an American author who will be on our list?

- A. Pablo Neruda
- B. Luis J. Rodriguez
- C. Gabriel Garcia Márquez
- D. all of the above
- E. none of the above

22. Creation myths are

- A. stories that explain how the world came into being
- B. stories that explore the relationship between humans and the divine
- C. stories that no longer have any relevance since science can explain absolutely everything quite sufficiently
- D. numerous and varied, as people from different cultures hold divergent beliefs
- E. A, B and D

23. A great vehicle for telling your own story is

- A. a private personal journal
- B. digital storytelling software
- C. friendly conversation
- D. poetry
- E. all of the above

24. The site where you can go to find out if you have any English homework is

- A. schoolnews.com
- B. webstaclenoose.com
- C. webstaclecouse.com
- D. akittelton@teach.com
- E. all of the above