

Unit 2 Collection 4

Selection Test

READING AND LITERATURE

from Nature Ralph Waldo Emerson**from Self-Reliance** Ralph Waldo Emerson**COMPREHENSION** Circle the letter of the best answer to each of the following items. (30 points; 6 points each)

1. In "Nature," what does Emerson mean by nature?
 - A) People who have not been corrupted or disappointed
 - B) The impressions we get from different natural objects
 - C) Outer space
 - D) Flowers, animals, and mountains

2. In "Self-Reliance," what is the point of the comparison Emerson makes between the kernel of corn and human effort?
 - A) You must work hard to grow corn just as you must work hard to achieve your potential.
 - B) People cannot survive without food, so we must all work very hard.
 - C) As corn grows slowly, so it takes a long time for people to reach their potential.
 - D) A kernel of corn is small and hard to see, and similarly, our potential is often hidden and hard to see.

3. In "Self-Reliance," Emerson says we are "ashamed of that divine idea which each of us represents." Which of the following items best describes what he means by "that divine idea"?
 - A) An image of the world
 - B) God
 - C) Each person's unique character, as conceived by God
 - D) A wonderful and exciting plan of action

4. In "Nature," which of the following best describes Emerson's attitude toward society?
 - A) He believes that society always has humanity's best interests at heart.
 - B) He thinks that societies are becoming increasingly civilized.
 - C) He values nature highly and has some contempt for society.
 - D) He hopes that nature will someday destroy all societies.

Unit 2: Collection 4, Selection Test *continued*

5. Emerson's purpose in "Nature" is to—
- A) express his doubt in the society of his time
 - B) explain and analyze how nature works
 - C) describe a profound way of seeing nature
 - D) argue that everyone should leave the cities and live in nature

VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT Match the definition on the left with the vocabulary word on the right. On the line provided, write the letter of the correct vocabulary word. (10 points; 2 points each)

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| _____ 6. apparent; clear | A) conviction |
| _____ 7. sound moral principles | B) manifest |
| _____ 8. firm belief | C) integrate |
| _____ 9. happy, carefree | D) blithe |
| _____ 10. unify into a whole | E) integrity |

VOCABULARY SKILL Match the root word on the left with the most likely vocabulary word on the right. (10 points; 2 points each)

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| _____ 11. from Latin, "to climb" | A) conviction |
| _____ 12. from Latin, "soundness," "whole" | B) manifest |
| _____ 13. from Latin, "to turn away" | C) transcendent |
| _____ 14. from Latin, "to conquer" | D) aversion |
| _____ 15. from Latin, "caught in the act," "blatant" | E) integrity |

LITERARY FOCUS Circle the letter of the best answer to each of the following items. (15 points; 5 points each)

16. Which senses does this **imagery** appeal to: "For, nature is not always tricked in holiday attire, but the same scene which yesterday breathed perfume and glittered as for the frolic of the nymphs, is overspread with melancholy today"?
- A) touch and taste
 - B) sight and smell
 - C) sight and taste
 - D) smell and sound

Unit 2: Collection 4, Selection Test *continued*

17. Which of the following contains an example of **personification**?
- A) “. . . come out these envoys of beauty, and light the universe with their admonishing smile.”
 - B) “Nature never became a toy to a wise spirit.”
 - C) “. . . a wild delight runs through the man, in spite of real sorrows.”
 - D) “Almost I fear to think how glad I am.”
18. What is Emerson referring to in the **figure of speech** *hobgoblin of little minds*?
- A) Consistency
 - B) Cowardice
 - C) Society
 - D) Conspiracy

READING FOCUS Circle the letter of the best answer to each of the following items. (15 points; 5 points each)

19. In “Self-Reliance,” what is the meaning of “Trust thyself: Every heart vibrates to that iron string”?
- A) If you trust yourself, you will come up against a steel wall.
 - B) Trust yourself, and you will be strong.
 - C) If you trust yourself, you will be broken as easily as a string.
 - D) Trust yourself, and you will become a musician.
20. In “Self-Reliance,” what is the meaning of “Speak what you think now in hard words, and tomorrow speak what tomorrow thinks in hard words again”?
- A) It is difficult to speak eloquently and correctly.
 - B) Telling the truth is dangerous, so don’t do it.
 - C) Say what’s on your mind in the strongest way you can.
 - D) Say what you want regardless of whether you have thought about it.
21. In “Nature,” Emerson supports which main idea in describing the waving of the boughs in the storm?
- A) A woodcutter’s stick of timber is different from the poet’s tree.
 - B) The currents of the Universal Being circulate through him.
 - C) There is a mysterious relationship between humans and the fields and woods
 - D) The rays of the stars that separate humans from vulgar things

FIFTEEN MINUTE TIMED WRITING (20 points)

22. On a separate sheet of paper, state the theme of Emerson’s essay “Nature,” and explain how he develops his theme with figures of speech. Support your ideas with details from the selection.