

Unit 2: Collection 5
Selection Test

READING AND LITERATURE**from Moby-Dick** Herman Melville

COMPREHENSION Circle the letter of the best answer to each of the following items. (42 points; 7 points each)

1. What does "Soon his steady, ivory stride was heard" tell you about Ahab?
 - A) He has shoes made of ivory.
 - B) He takes care to walk steadily on his artificial leg.
 - C) He walks well with his artificial leg made of ivory.
 - D) He uses an ivory-tipped cane.
2. How does Ahab gain his crew's support for his quest?
 - A) He threatens to throw any dissenters overboard.
 - B) He rallies them with a rousing speech and the promise of gold.
 - C) He plies them with drink and tricks them into signing a contract.
 - D) He doubles their pay and promises them a reward.
3. Tashtego, Daggoo, and Queequeg probably know about a whale called Moby-Dick because—
 - A) they had heard rumors that Ahab was hunting it
 - B) they had named the whale years ago
 - C) they were from the South Pacific and had heard tales about it
 - D) they had seen the whale on previous whaling expeditions
4. Starbuck's reaction differs from that of his crewmates because—
 - A) he doubts Ahab will pay anyone the gold
 - B) he is skeptical of Ahab's quest
 - C) he knows Moby-Dick is dead
 - D) he wants to overthrow Ahab and control the ship
5. What ceremony does Ahab use to bind his mates and his harpooners to his quest for Moby-Dick?
 - A) The mates and the harpooners toast each other with rum from the ewer.
 - B) The mates wash the feet of the harpooners with water carried inside the upturned iron part of the harpoons.
 - C) The mates serve the harpooners rum from the upturned iron part of their harpoons.
 - D) Ahab sets the rum on fire within the barbed steel harpoons.

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6. What is Ahab's final argument to Starbuck to get him to agree to go after Moby-Dick?
- A) Ahab will give Starbuck a bonus in addition to the Spanish gold piece if he is the one to bring in Moby-Dick.
 - B) Moby-Dick deliberately went after Ahab and maliciously took his leg, and Starbuck should help Ahab get revenge.
 - C) Even if Starbuck does not agree with Ahab, he should agree because going after Moby-Dick is like going after any other whale.
 - D) Even if Starbuck does not agree with Ahab, he should go along to set an example for the rest of the crew.

VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

Choose the word in parentheses that best completes each sentence. Draw a line under that word. (10 points; 2 points each)

- 7. The audience was confused by the speaker's (inarticulate, lucid) speech.
- 8. Talent and (indecisiveness, volition) led the student to choose the writing class.
- 9. Pessimistic people often (wreak, withhold) misery wherever they go.
- 10. The team read their next play in the coach's (transparent, inscrutable) expression.
- 11. The tarnished pewter cup had lost all its (luster, dullness).

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

12. In the beginning of this excerpt, Ahab is **indirectly characterized** as—
- A) a gentleman sea captain
 - B) an eccentric old man
 - C) a melancholy loner
 - D) an insecure sea captain
13. By the end of this excerpt, Ahab is **characterized** as—
- A) a madman incapable of running the ship
 - B) a wise but misguided sea merchant
 - C) an eccentric sea captain bent on revenge
 - D) a stern sea captain who commands the respect and admiration of his crew

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14. Which of the following statements about Ahab is true?
- A) Ahab is determined to not let the loss of his leg control his life.
 - B) Ahab welcomes input and suggestions from his crew.
 - C) Ahab's single-minded determination is obsessive.
 - D) Ahab yearns to come to terms with ordinary life.

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

15. What can you **infer** about the whale based on the following statements?
- “. . . that white whale must be the same that some call Moby-Dick.”
- “‘And he have one, two, tree—oh! good many iron in him hide, too, Captain,’ cried Queequeg disjointedly.”
- A) The whale has a legendary reputation based on its survival in the face of many attempts to kill it.
 - B) The whale has a legendary reputation based on its extremely tough hide.
 - C) The whale has a name because it once belonged to people.
 - D) The whale has a legendary reputation based on its supernatural powers.
16. Read the following statement: “Stubb and Flask looked sideways from him; the honest eye of Starbuck fell downright.” What **inference** can you make about Starbuck's character based on the statement?
- A) Starbuck is easily swayed by others' opinions.
 - B) Starbuck will capitulate when he thinks it is best to do so.
 - C) Starbuck cannot be intimidated.
 - D) Starbuck does not like to speak up when he is in the minority.
17. Which of the following **inferences** about Ahab is most plausible?
- A) Ahab will quit looking for Moby-Dick if he does not find him right away.
 - B) Starbuck will persuade Ahab to give up his quest to find Moby-Dick.
 - C) Ahab will place his and his crews' lives in danger in his pursuit of Moby-Dick.
 - D) Ahab will find Moby-Dick and decide not to kill him.

CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE (18 points)

18. Compare Ahab's determination to “chase the white whale on both sides of land, and over all sides of earth, till he spouts black blood and rolls fins out,” to Starbuck's attitude that “To be enraged with a dumb thing, Captain Ahab, seems blasphemous.” On a separate sheet of paper, explain why each character feels the way he does, and then state which character's viewpoint you agree with, and why.