

## Unit 2: Collection 5

**Selection Test**

## READING AND LITERATURE

**The Pit and the Pendulum** Edgar Allan Poe

**COMPREHENSION** Circle the letter of the best answer to each of the following items. (30 points; 6 points each)

1. The mood of this story is best described as—
  - A) neutral
  - B) romantic
  - C) terrifying
  - D) confusing
  
2. Why do you think the candles seem to change shape from “slender angels” to “meaningless specters”?
  - A) The candles are magic symbols and can change shape.
  - B) The candles symbolize the prisoner’s change from hope to hopelessness.
  - C) Inquisitors have changed the candles in order to change the prisoner’s mood.
  - D) The candles are actually the Inquisitors.
  
3. Why did the eyes of the fiendish figures painted on the dungeon walls begin to glow after the prisoner escaped from the pendulum?
  - A) They seemed to glow because the prisoner was hallucinating.
  - B) They were glowing because of the chemical used to paint them.
  - C) They were glowing because candles were lit behind them.
  - D) They were glowing from the fire set outside the walls.
  
4. What is the most likely meaning of the following sentence: “Neither could I forget what I had read of these pits—that the *sudden* extinction of life formed no part of their most horrible plan”?
  - A) The pits are meant to frighten prisoners.
  - B) Prisoners in the pits would be tortured, but not killed.
  - C) Death in the pits would take a long time and be very painful.
  - D) The Inquisition does not plan for anyone to die in the pits.
  
5. What could be the symbolic meaning of the arrival of the French Army?
  - A) Military might is the prisoner’s salvation.
  - B) The prisoner will be faced by a new trouble.
  - C) The prisoner has been betrayed by nationalism.
  - D) The prisoner is saved by divine intervention.

Unit 2: Collection 5, Selection Test *continued*

**VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT** Complete each analogy with a vocabulary word from the list below. (10 points; 2 points each)

prostrate      tumultuous      averted      lucid      lethargy

6. vague : apparent :: indistinct : \_\_\_\_\_
7. flexible : rigid :: vertical : \_\_\_\_\_
8. sleep : calm :: riot : \_\_\_\_\_
9. prohibited : permitted :: stared: \_\_\_\_\_
10. indecision : hesitancy :: vigor: \_\_\_\_\_

**VOCABULARY SKILL** Match the etymology on the left with the vocabulary word on the right. (10 points; 2 points each)

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| _____ 11. [L <i>lucidus</i> , to shine]                              | A) lethargy   |
| _____ 12. [L <i>pro-</i> , before + <i>sternere</i> , to spread out] | B) prostrate  |
| _____ 13. [L <i>a-</i> , from + <i>vertere</i> , to turn]            | C) lucid      |
| _____ 14. [ME <i>letargie</i> , forgetful]                           | D) tumultuous |
| _____ 15. [ME <i>tumulte</i> , noisy]                                | E) averted    |

**LITERARY FOCUS** Circle the letter of the best answer to each of the following items. (18 points; 6 points each)

16. Which of the following is the best method of inferring the **symbolic** meaning of a story?
  - A) Add prior knowledge to story clues.
  - B) Visualize what is read.
  - C) Make a time line of key events.
  - D) Concentrate on the literal meaning of words.
  
17. The pit in the prisoner's cell also may be a **symbol** of—
  - A) salvation
  - B) hell
  - C) hope
  - D) escape

**Unit 2: Collection 5, Selection Test** *continued*

18. What is one way a reader can tell whether a person, place, thing, or event used in a literary work is a **symbol**?
- A) The person, place, thing, or event appears only once, and may or may not have a deeper meaning.
  - B) The person, place, thing, or event has no meaning in itself, but seems to have a deep meaning.
  - C) The person, place, thing, or event has an archaic spelling that implies a deeper meaning.
  - D) The person, place, thing, or event has a meaning in itself and suggests a deeper meaning.

**READING FOCUS** Circle the letter of the best answer to each of the following items. (12 points; 6 points each)

19. For which of the following is **retelling** the key events of a story most helpful?
- A) Predicting a story's outcome
  - B) Understanding what happened and why
  - C) Remembering characters' names
  - D) Interpreting the story's symbols
20. Which of the following statements gives the best retelling of the following passage?  
"At length, with a wild desperation at heart, I quickly unclosed my eyes. My worst thoughts, then, were confirmed. The blackness of eternal night encompassed me."
- A) When he opened his eyes, he discovered he was blind.
  - B) Filled with despair, he thought that he had died.
  - C) He opened his eyes and could see only darkness.
  - D) When he opened his eyes, he discovered he was condemned to an eternity of darkness.

**CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE** (20 points)

21. Based on "The Pit and the Pendulum," in what ways can Poe be considered a Dark Romantic? Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. Support your ideas with details from the selection.