

PRACTICE EXERCISE 2

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

Directions: This section consists of selections of literature and questions on their content, style, and form. After you have read each passage, choose the answer that best answers the question.

Test-Taking Strategy

Review the directions each time you begin a Practice Exercise so you will not have to spend time puzzling them out on the day of the test.

Questions 1 through 10 refer to the following poem. Read the poem carefully and then choose the answers to the questions.

The First Snowfall

- Line The snow had begun in the gloaming
 And busily all the night
 Had been heaping field highway
 With a silence deep and white.
- 5 Every pine and fir and hemlock
 Wore ermine too dear for an earl.
 And the poorest twig on the elm tree
 Was ridges inch deep with pearl.
- 10 From shed new-roofed with Carrara*
 Came Chanticleer's muffled crow,
 The stiff rails softened to swan's-down,
 And still fluttered down the snow.
- I stood and watched by the window
 The noiseless work of the sky,
 15 And the sudden flurries of snowbirds,
 Like brown leaves whirling by.
- I thought of a mound in sweet Auburn**
 Where a little headstone stood;
 How the flakes were folding it gently,
 20 As did robins the babes in the woods.
- Up spoke our own little Mabel,
 Saying, "Father, who makes it snow?"
 And I told of the good All-Father
 Who cares for us here below.

* white marble

** a cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts

25 Again I looked at the snowfall,
 And thought of the leaden sky
 That arched o'er our first great sorrow,
 When that mound was heaped so high.

I remembered the gradual patience
 30 That fell from that cloud like snow,
 Flake by flake, healing and hiding
 That scar that renewed our woe.

And again to the child I whispered,
 "The snow that husheth all,
 35 Darling, the merciful Father
 Alone can make it fall!"

Then, with eyes that saw not, I kissed her;
 And she, kissing back, could not know
 That my kiss was given to her sister,
 40 Folded close under deepening snow.

—James Russell Lowell

- How could the tone of this poem be characterized?
 - Great sadness and anger
 - Sadness mingled with hope
 - Familial love
 - Depression that is close to insanity
 - Anxiety combined with fear
- Which of the following is not true about the setting of this poem?
 - It is winter.
 - It is morning.
 - A graveyard is evoked.
 - A funeral is beginning.
 - It is snowing.
- It is evident from the poem that the speaker
 - loves both his daughters
 - dislikes the bad weather
 - is cold and unfeeling
 - has lost his wife
 - blames God for the tragedy
- Which of the following best illustrates the theme of "The First Snowfall"?
 - Winter brings death and sadness.
 - A natural event, such as snow, can remind us of sorrowful events but can also help to heal.
 - The world is full of sadness for human beings who are not afraid to feel their emotions.
 - Children should understand the important role God takes in the world.
 - Natural things such as elms and robins are loved as much as human beings by God.
- Of what does the snow make the speaker think?
 - The coming of spring
 - God
 - His daughter's death
 - The love he feels for his family
 - The glory of nature

6. What is the purpose of these lines from the fifth stanza: "I thought of a mound in sweet Auburn/Where a little headstone stood"?
- (A) They establish the setting.
 - (B) They imply the speaker's sorrow regarding his daughter's death without stating it directly.
 - (C) They suggest the coldness of the day.
 - (D) They offer the poet's concept of life after death.
 - (E) They imply that God is the creator of all earthly events.
7. What type of poem is "The First Snowfall"?
- (A) A narrative
 - (B) An ode
 - (C) An elegy
 - (D) A lyric
 - (E) A sonnet
8. What type of rhyme is found in the following line: "Folded close under deepening snow"?
- (A) Internal rhyme
 - (B) Masculine rhyme
 - (C) Feminine rhyme
 - (D) Consonance
 - (E) Assonance
9. What is the meaning of the word "gloaming" in the first line of the poem?
- (A) Autumn
 - (B) Dusk
 - (C) Increasing cold
 - (D) First light
 - (E) Wind
10. What is the purpose of the transition in the fourth stanza?
- (A) It changes the focus from the outer world to the speaker's inner self.
 - (B) It establishes the tone and mood of the poem.
 - (C) It puts forth the poet's belief that God is the source of all healing.
 - (D) The lines establish the beauty of nature.
 - (E) The device is required in romantic poetry.