

0American Literature Spring Final Exam Study Guide

PART I (Reading Comprehension): Read the following passages. Then answer the questions that follow.

The hair on her head was dark brown streaked with gray. her old fur hat was gray, and it clung to the back of her neck---a squirrel with its furry back bent almost double in an effort to hold on. Her blue raincoat hung nearly to the ground in front and was several inches shorter in the back. She carried a shopping bag in each hand. In that city neighborhood, she was a sign of spring. Like a battered crocus or a soot-sprinkled daffodil planted too near the sidewalk, she shrugged off the dirt and burst forth each year. But she was a thorny flower. and none ventured too near, for she mumbled as she trudged from trash basket to trash basket, and anybody---child or adult---who got too close was liable to be jabbed with words that stung like sharp, prickly spines.

1. Why does the author say that the woman's hat is a squirrel?
 - A. The ha is made of squirrel's fur.
 - B. The hat's color and material resemble a squirrel.
 - C. Squirrels climb on the woman and cling to her neck.
 - D. The woman lives with the squirrels in the city neighborhood.
2. What does the woman do if she is approached by anyone?
 - A. She jabs people, probably with an umbrella or walking cane.
 - B. She pricks them with the thorny flowers she carries.
 - C. She speaks harshly to them, using words that might hurt their feelings.
 - D. She asks them to help her search for treasures in the trash baskets.
3. Using the context clues offered in the last sentence of the excerpt, explain what the author means by "none ventured too near..."
 - A. No one risks getting too close to the woman.
 - B. Getting near the woman is an adventure.
 - C. Everyone watches the woman from a safe distance.
 - D. People make bets on what the woman will do if someone gets close to her.
4. Using the information presented about the woman, what do you infer about the woman's social status?
 - A. She is a person who lives on the streets and collects items from trash baskets.
 - B. She is an irritable woman who has inadvertently thrown something away.
 - C. She is an antisocial person who likes squirrels and flowers.
 - D. She is a woman who derives joy from shopping but not socializing.
5. Based on the words the author uses to describe the woman, evaluate the author's opinion of the woman.
 - A. Since the author calls her "a sign of spring" and compares her to a flower, the author thinks she is beautiful in her own way.
 - B. The author does not like her because she uses unkind words toward people who approach her.
 - C. The author is prejudiced against her because she looks shabby, searches through trash baskets, and frightens people away.
 - D. Since the author emphasizes the woman's charm behind the ragged clothes and cantankerous attitude, the writer's opinion of the woman is positive.

With a smother of foam and bubbles the green water closed over me. When I was not too far down, I signaled the crew above to stop. Since they were new at this business, I wanted to see whether they would answer satisfactorily. When they promptly did so, I adjusted the air pressure in my diving dress and resumed my slow descent.

6. In which sentence in the excerpt can you find the paragraph's main idea?
- A. Sentence one
 - B. Sentence two
 - C. Sentence three
 - D. Sentence four
7. How does the diver test the crew's ability to answer satisfactorily?
- A. The diver adjusts the air pressure and descends slowly.
 - B. Before descending very far, the diver signals the crew to stop.
 - C. The diver stops just beneath the water and waits for the crew's reaction.
 - D. The diver stops several times to determine if the crew is paying attention.

The record book will tell you that Roberto Clemente collected 3,000 hits during his major-league career. It will say that he came to bat 9,454 times, that he drove in 1,305 runs, and played 2,433 games over an eighteen-year span.

But it won't tell you about Carolina, Puerto Rico, and the old square, and the narrow, twisted streets, and the roots that produced him. It won't tell you about the Julio coronado School and a remarkable woman named Maria Isabella Casares, whom he called "Teacher" until the day he died and who helped to shape his life in times of despair and depression...

And most of all, those cold numbers won't begin to delineate the man Roberto Clemente was. To even begin to understand what this magnificent athlete was all about, you have to work backward. The search begins at the site of its ending.

8. What is the author's purpose in writing about Roberto Clemente?
- A. The author wants to share Clemente's impressive baseball statistics.
 - B. The author wants readers to know where Clemente was born.
 - C. The author wants to write about famous baseball players from Puerto Rico.
 - D. The author wants to reveal the man Clemente was by talking about the important people and places in his life.
9. Which of the following best describes the author's point of view toward Roberto Clemente?
- A. The author is impressed with Clemente's baseball records.
 - B. The author is prejudiced against Clemente because he was from Puerto Rico.
 - C. The author greatly admires Clemente, and he wants to give credit to the people and places that molded Clemente into a great baseball player.
 - D. The author believes that baseball records should include background information about player.
10. Choose the meaning that best fits the way *delineate* is used in the third paragraph of the excerpt?
- A. to trace the outline of; sketch out
 - B. to draw
 - C. to depict in words; describe
 - D. make colorful

11. If you were doing a report on Roberto Clemente which of the following would be the BEST source to refer to for further information?
- A. a biography
 - B. a baseball website
 - C. Wikipedia
 - D. a magazine article
12. If a student used sentence 2 of paragraph 1 in a research paper, that student would need to
- A. Paraphrase
 - B. Include a Works Cited entry and paraphrase
 - C. Use quotation marks, include parenthetical citation and a Works Cited entry
 - D. Include parenthetical citation and use quotation marks
13. This passage can best be described as
- A. a letter
 - B. an informative essay
 - C. a description
 - D. a persuasive exposition

Family Time

1 The steam from the bread pan scorched Selena's face as she took it from the oven. She wiped her face with

an apron after carefully setting the bread down. The day would not go well with her if she dropped the bread.

Selena's mother had already colded her for ruining a batch of cookies. It had been her fault, but how could she not go chasing after the autumn butterfly? It would have brought her such luck to catch it today. She knew that butterflies are a symbol of this holiday season, The Days of the Dead. that is because caterpillars wrap themselves up as if dead, and then come to life again in glorious new colors and in new butterfly bodies,

able to fly. Selena had not moved fast enough and could only watch as this butterfly disappeared into the trees; then, she suddenly remembered the cookies.

2 "A busy day like this needs to be broken a little," her mother had said kindly after seeing the regret on Selena's face over the burned and cracked cookies. "But let's spare the food from breaking and burning. It is

hard enough to keep the babies from taking bites out of all the leaves!"

3 Such words from her mother made Selena feel more a part of getting ready for her favorite celebration. The kids at school didn't understand how a celebration called the Days of the Dead, Los Días De Los Muertos, could be joyful and fun.

4 "Well," Selena thought to herself as she buried a toy skeleton into the next loaf of bread she would bake, "for us this is just the best time of the year."

5 Selena wished that the drive to the countryside where her great-grandparents had settled after arriving from Mexico and where her grandparents still lived, was not so far away. It was really hard to ride for hours smelling the pan de muerto, the special bread of this celebration of the dead, without being able to take even a nibble. It was also difficult to ride knowing that the cookies and chocolates shaped as skulls, coffins, and skeletons were wrapped up so she could not sneak one out along the way to the grave sites. Besides the enticing aroma for the delicacies, there were miniature silver bells and religious ornaments adorning the baskets full of food which teased her hunger as they made inviting, jingling come-to-supper sounds. Once

her family reached the cemetery though, there would be feasting and storytelling and cleaning of the graves to be done. Selena and her family would also place bouquets of fresh yellow marigolds and golden chrysanthemums at the headstones, as well as some of the favorite foods of the departed.

6 Selena knew people who thought the idea of picnicking at a graveyard was disrespectful. She had explained

to them it was done to include the members of the family who had passed on. It was a celebration of the people in the final stage of this life. It was also a celebration of the dead. Also it was a celebration of the people beginning a new stage of this life, the children. The children would continue to gather in the memory of the ones who had lived before them until it was time for them to join the departed, marking the eternal circle of the family. To be sure, some families in cities had to create an altar, an ofrendas, in their homes to decorate and celebrate around, but Selena was glad that her family could celebrate the days together out underneath the pale November sky.

7 As her parents pulled into the cemetery parking lot, Selena heard her name being called. She saw seven of her cousins racing over. They grabbed her by the arms and pulled her to the far side of the gates with them. They wanted her to see the calacas (skeleton doll) collection they had made. As she was the eldest cousin, she was to judge each of the handmade dolls for her cousins. Selena could not decide which was the most clever: was it the skeleton bride holding flowers, the skeleton cowboy holding a lariat, or the skeleton poet holding a book? As she thought about it, her cousins handed her one last calacas to add to the group.

8 "This is the cleverest calacas ever!" Selena announced with a merry smile lighting her eyes. She gently held up the doll, a small skeleton child holding a tiny butterfly net with a bright orange butterfly inside.

14. What is the author's purpose in having a butterfly at the beginning and at the end of Selena's story?

- A. to bring luck to Selena and her attempts at baking
- B. to prove that Selena and her family live in a remote location
- C. to symbolize the story's theme of birth and death
- D. to foreshadow the arrival of butterflies on the fresh flowers set at the headstones.

15. Which statement best supports the idea that the culture represented in this story values every member of the family?

- A. The children would continue to gather in the memory of those who had lived before them until it was time for them to join the departed, marking the eternal circle of the family.
- B. As she was the eldest cousin, she was to judge each of the handmade dolls for her cousins.
- C. Selena wished that the drive to the countryside where her great-grandparents had settled after arriving from Mexico, and where her great-grandparents still live, wasn't so far.
- D. Once her family reached the cemetery though, there would be feasting and storytelling and cleaning of the graves to be done.

16. What is ironic about the story?

- A. Selena gets to judge the handmade dolls.
- B. Many people consider the tradition Selena and her family celebrate morbid.
- C. The butterfly is seen more than once that day.
- D. Selena doesn't enjoy the holiday but pretends she does so she doesn't upset her mother.

17. Which of the following *best* explains the author's purpose in writing the passage?

- A. to persuade
- B. to instruct
- C. to entertain
- D. to cause doubt

18. The story is told in which point of view?

- A. first person
- B. second person
- C. third person limited
- D. third person omniscient

19. Which of the following happens last?

- A. Selena and her family drive to her great-grandparents.
- B. Selena burns the cookies she is making for the picnic because she is distracted.
- C. Selena's cousins hand her a calacas holding a butterfly.
- D. Selena and her parents arrive at the cemetery.

PART 2 (Grammar): Answer the following questions using the passage below.

(1) I'd saved for months but the bestest passage I could afford went only so far as the supply station above Meroe Patera; a dilapidated wagon-wheel model from two hundred years ago that was, incredibly still in use. (2) Stepping off the liner and through its airlock was like walking back in time: the scrubbed air might as well have twinkled with the dust that floated in real sunlight back home.

20. What change should be made to sentence 1?

- A. change *bestest* to *best*
- B. change *months* to *month*
- C. change *afford* to *affords*
- D. change *was* to *were*

21. Which sentence in the above paragraph does not need to be corrected?

- A. sentence one
- B. sentence two
- C. none of the above
- D. all of the above

PART 3 (Poetry): Read the following poem and answer the questions below.

Women Work

I've got the children to tend
The clothes to mend
The floor to mop
The food to shop
Then the chicken to fry
The baby to dry
I got company to feed
The garden to weed
I've got shirts to press
The tots to dress
The can to be cut
I gotta clean up this hut

Then see about the sick
And the cotton to pick.

Shine on me, sunshine
Rain on me, rain
Fall softly, dewdrops
And cool my brow again.

22. The previous poem is organized in two _____(s).
- A. Paragraphs
 - B. Lines
 - C. Verses
 - D. Stanzas
23. Lines 1 and 2 of the above poem represent examples of _____.
- A. Exact rhyme
 - B. End rhyme
 - C. Both A and B
 - D. None of the above

PART 4 (Literary Terms): Write the definition for the following literary devices on a separate sheet of paper.

Mood	Tone	Simile	Metaphor
Imagery	Allusion	Assonance	Theme
Personification	Hyperbole	Alliteration	Verbal Irony
Situational Irony	Dramatic Irony	Internal Conflict	External Conflict

Match the correct literary device to the example given below.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Personification | A. Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. |
| 2. Allusion | B. "He gives his harness bells a shake." |
| 3. Simile | C. I posted a video on YouTube about how boring and useless YouTube is. |
| 4. Metaphor | D. During the games, the Capitol has changed the rules of the game and decided that two tributes from the same district can win the games as a pair. Katniss goes to find Peeta when she finds out. |
| 5. Alliteration | E. My teacher has a heart of gold. |
| 6. Assonance | F. Mother is as slow as Christmas when we are at the grocery store. |
| 7. Hyperbole | G. Paul took away his sister's doll. Now they are fighting over the toy and his sister runs away screaming. |
| 8. Internal Conflict | H. Peeta and Katniss are the only tributes left in the games but the Capitol changes the rules again and says that there can only be one winner. As a result, they threaten to poison themselves so they both become winners of the Hunger Games. |
| 9. External Conflict | I. Candy was Peter's Achilles' heel ever since he was a child. |
| 10. Verbal Irony | J. Mate wants to get married but she is afraid that every man will turn out like her father, the cheating husband. |
| 11. Situational Irony | K. "Oh great! Now you have broken my new camera." |
| 12. Dramatic Irony | L. In the beginning of <i>The Hunger Games</i> the main character, Katniss Everdeen, is introduced. She and Peeta has been picked as one of the pairs from each of the 12 districts of Panem to compete in the Hunger |
| 13. Exposition | |
| 14. Climax | |
| 15. Resolution | |

- Games, a competition of life and death in a dangerous outdoor arena.
- M. In Oedipus Rex, Oedipus desperately tries to find the murderer of King Thebes without knowing that he is the murderer.

PART 5 (Writing Process and the Components of an Essay): Complete the questions below on a separate sheet of paper.

24. Explain what happens in each of the following areas of the writing process.

Brainstorming/Prewriting

Drafting

Revision

Editing

Publish

25. In the following table, identify what components go into each section of an essay as well as their purpose. Be sure to include notes about MLA citation.

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	

PART 6 (Literary Periods: Native American, Puritanism, Rationalism, Romanticism/Dark Romanticism/Gothic Literature, Transcendentalism, Realism, Modernism, Harlem Renaissance, and Contemporary): Look over your notes on the Literary Periods covered in class. Make sure you pay

close attention to writers of that period, types of literature found in each period, as well as their beliefs.