

Dead Poets Society – Allusion Test

General Instructions: After viewing *Dead Poets Society* as a review of the *carpe diem* theme, you were directed to research the allusions made by the characters in the movie. For this test you may use any notes you took during your research. Record all of your answers on the answer sheet. Your correct answers will be totaled and applied to a scale that reflects 37 correct answers = 100 percent.

Section I – Classical Music Allusions

Instructions: Listen to the music played and record the title of each piece, its composer, and the years of the composer's life.

1. First Selection 2. Second Selection 3. Third Selection 4. Fourth Selection

Section II – Cultural Allusions

Instructions: For the following cultural allusions, briefly identify each person or television reference.

5. John Wayne 6. Marlon Brando 7. *American Bandstand*

Section III – Literary Allusions

Instructions: In this section you are given a line from a literary work or a poet's name.

- For each line from a literary work, provide the complete title, the writer, poet, or playwright and the dates of the author's life.
 - For each writer, poet, or playwright you must provide the dates of the person's life and the title of one major work.
8. "'Oh Captain, My Captain,' Who knows where that comes from?"
9. George Gordon, Lord Byron
10. "Gather ye Rose-buds while ye may"
11. "Mr. Meeks, time to inherit the earth."

12. "O to struggle against great odds. To meet enemies undaunted."
13. "To be a sailor of the world, bound for all ports."
14. "O while I live to be the ruler of life, not a slave."
15. "To mount the scaffolds. To advance to the muzzle of guns with perfect nonchalance."
16. "To dance, clap hands, exalt, shout, skip, roll on, float on."
17. "O to have life henceforth the poem of new joys."
18. "To indeed be a god!"
19. "Charlie, I got the part! I'm gonna play Puck! I'm gonna play Puck!"
20. "I sound my barbaric yawp over the rooftops of the world."
21. "Because we are food for worms lads. Because, believe it or not, each and every one of us in this room is one day going to stop breathing, turn cold, and die."
22. [Identify any sonnet by Byron]
23. [Identify any sonnet by Shakespeare, by first line—not number]
24. "O Titus, bring your friend hither."
25. "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears."
26. "Well, is this a dagger I see before me?"
27. "Oh me, o life of the questions of these recurring, of the endless trains of the faithless, of cities filled with the foolish."
28. "That the powerful play goes on and you may contribute a verse."

29. "Two roads diverged in a wood, And I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference."
30. "Show me the heart unfettered by foolish dreams, and I'll show you a happy man."
31. "The Dead Poets were dedicated to sucking the marrow out of life."
32. Percy Bysshe Shelley
33. "I went to the woods because I wanted to live deliberately. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life."
34. "In a mean abode in the shanking road,
Lived a man named William Bloat;
He had a wife, the curse of his life,
Who continually got her goat.
So one day at dawn, with her nightdress on
He cut her bloody throat."
35. "Teach me to love? Go teach thyself more wit.
I, chief professor, am of it."
36. "'Tis not too late to seek a newer world
for my purpose holds to sail beyond the sunset.
And though we are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven; that which we are, we are; --
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will.
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."
37. "Then I had religion, then I had a vision.
I could not turn from their revel in derision.
Then I saw the Congo creeping through the black,
Cutting through the forest with a golden track."
38. [Identify a play written by William Shakespeare but not alluded to in *DPS*.]

39. “‘Most men lead lives of quiet desperation.’ Don’t be resigned to that. Break out!”

40. “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate.”

41. “She walks in beauty like the night.
Of cloudless climes and starry skies.
And all that’s best of dark and bright ,
Meet in her aspect and her eyes.

42. “If we shadows have offended,
Think but this, and all is amended,
That you have but slumber’d here
While all these visions did appear.
And this weak and idle theme,
No more yielding but a dream,
Gentles, do not reprehend:
If you pardon, we will mend:
And, as I am an honest Puck,
If we have unearned luck
Now to ‘scape the serpent’s tongue,
We will make amends ere long;
Else the Puck a liar call;
So, good night unto you all.
Give me your hands, if we be friends,
And Robin shall restore amends.”

43. [Identify three characters of the work alluded to in item 42.]