

Shakespearean Sonnet Packet

Multiple Choice

Identify the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

Comprehension

The questions below refer to the selections "Sonnet 29" and "Sonnet 30."

- _____ 1. The first four lines of Sonnet 29 could be paraphrased as —
a. when I think about how much I miss my beloved . . .
b. when I sit alone and feel sorry for myself and my bad luck . . .
c. when I get into a fight with my friends and we curse one another . . .
d. when I make a fortune and don't know what to do with it . . .
- _____ 2. In lines 5–7 of Sonnet 29 the speaker wishes for some of the things other people have. Which of the following things does he *not* mention?
a. Money
b. Artistic ability
c. Power
d. Popularity
- _____ 3. The speaker rouses himself out of his sadness by —
a. remembering that he is able to write fine poetry
b. recalling good times he has had with his friends
c. summoning his family around the fire
d. thinking of the person he loves
- _____ 4. In lines 10–12, the speaker compares a bird at daybreak to his —
a. beloved
b. body
c. mood
d. poetry
- _____ 5. Sonnet 29 concludes with a feeling of —
a. jealousy
b. doom
c. doubt
d. happiness
- _____ 6. "When to the sessions of sweet silent thought / I summon up remembrance of things past" means —
a. When I think about the past . . .
b. When I try to forget the past . . .
c. When I have to go to court . . .
d. When I behave more sweetly than I feel inside . . .
- _____ 7. What kind of sorrow does the speaker think about in line 3 of Sonnet 30 when he says, "I sigh the lack of many a thing I sought"?
a. Sorrow over things he wanted but never got
b. Sorrow over things he got but let slip through his fingers
c. Sorrow over how few opportunities he has had in life
d. Sorrow over riches that have lost their appeal
- _____ 8. In Sonnet 30, the speaker laments departed friends. However, he is cheered when thinking —
a. that they really weren't such great friends after all
b. that they will return someday
c. of the friend the poem is addressed to
d. all the friends he has now
- _____ 9. The metaphors in Sonnet 30 come *mostly* from the fields of —
a. war and shipping
b. poetry and journalism
c. law and finance
d. religion and science
- _____ 10. The message of Sonnets 29 and 30 could be summarized as —

- a. there is no cure for sorrow
- b. love is the remedy for sorrow
- c. life is short, but art lasts forever
- d. it is better to keep busy than to lose oneself in thoughts and memories

Literary Focus: Shakespearean Sonnet

The questions below refer to the selections "Sonnet 29" and "Sonnet 30."

- _____ 11. The main subject of Shakespeare's 154 sonnets is —
- a. love
 - b. art
 - c. tragedy
 - d. the self

Comprehension

The questions below refer to the selections "Sonnet 71" and "Sonnet 73."

- _____ 12. The common subject of both Sonnets 71 and 73 is the —
- a. beloved's physical beauty
 - b. beloved's inner beauty
 - c. speaker's mortality
 - d. poet's ambition
- _____ 13. The essential message of the first twelve lines of Sonnet 71 could be paraphrased as —
- a. preserve my poetry when I am gone
 - b. forget me as soon as I'm gone
 - c. please don't replace me with a newer love
 - d. life is awful and I won't miss it
- _____ 14. In lines 6–8 of Sonnet 71, the speaker explains that he —
- a. doesn't want to cause his beloved the pain of remembering him
 - b. feels that all of life is an illusion, including love
 - c. believes that there is room in one life for only one love, not two
 - d. despises the vanity of life so much that he is unable to feel genuine love
- _____ 15. In the final couplet of Sonnet 71, the speaker further explains that he —
- a. doesn't want his memory to keep his beloved from attaining happiness
 - b. doesn't want the world to make fun of his beloved for being attached to him
 - c. feels that although love can be preserved in art, it cannot survive long in real life
 - d. feels that his beloved's beauty is too great to be spoiled by tears and grief
- _____ 16. What season of the year is the speaker describing in lines 1–4 of Sonnet 73?
- a. Winter
 - b. Spring
 - c. Summer
 - d. Autumn
- _____ 17. In line 4 of Sonnet 73, what does Shakespeare compare to the choir lofts of churches?
- a. Singing birds
 - b. Tree branches
 - c. Yellow leaves
 - d. Sunset
- _____ 18. What season of life does Sonnet 73 describe?
- a. Childhood
 - b. Adolescence
 - c. The prime of life
 - d. Old age
- _____ 19. According to the speaker of Sonnet 73, what effect does his condition have on his beloved?
- a. His joy is contagious and makes her joyous, too.
 - b. His depression makes her want to stay away from him.
 - c. It causes her to value the little time they have left together.
 - d. His illness causes her to treat him as a patient, not a lover.
- _____ 20. In line 10 of Sonnet 73, what poetic device is used in the description of a fire: "That on the ashes of his youth doth lie"?

- a. Alliteration
- b. Simile
- c. Personification
- d. Metaphor

Literary Focus: Shakespearean Sonnet and Tone

The questions below refer to the selections "Sonnet 71" and "Sonnet 73."

- ____ 21. What is a **quatrain**?
 - a. The first section of a sonnet, which states a problem
 - b. The concluding section, which resolves the problem
 - c. A repeated line or group of lines in a poem
 - d. A group or stanza of four lines
- ____ 22. What is a poem's **tone**?
 - a. The attitude an author or speaker takes toward the material in a poem
 - b. A word or phrase that sums up the general atmosphere or feeling of the poem
 - c. The central idea that the poet or speaker is trying to get across
 - d. The way the poem would sound if it were read aloud
- ____ 23. How can the sounds of a poem affect its tone?
 - a. They cannot because sound and meaning are two separate things.
 - b. The sounds of a poem can change the meaning of its tone.
 - c. By imagining the poem spoken by a human voice, the reader can get a sense of the poem's tone.
 - d. Hearing a poem read aloud enables the audience to better understand the author's philosophy of life.

Comprehension

The questions below refer to the selections "Sonnet 116" and "Sonnet 130."

- ____ 24. From reading Sonnets 116 and 130, one can conclude that Shakespeare's idea of love involves the premise that —
 - a. true love ends when circumstances turn for the worse
 - b. people must be close in age to be truly in love
 - c. real love brings a person money, fame, and respect
 - d. true love is indifferent to wealth, beauty, age, and circumstance
- ____ 25. In Sonnet 116, "Let me not to the marriage of true minds / Admit impediments" could be paraphrased as —
 - a. these two people should not get married
 - b. obstacles cannot change true love
 - c. love of the mind is more important than love of the body
 - d. marriage is the necessary fulfillment of true love
- ____ 26. "Love is not love / Which alters when it alteration finds" means that —
 - a. love is a fake, a romantic illusion
 - b. what people usually call love is not really love
 - c. true love does not change with circumstance
 - d. as life progresses, love must be prepared to change
- ____ 27. In Sonnet 116, lines 9–12, beginning "Love's not Time's fool," suggest that love —
 - a. is not deceived by material wealth
 - b. cannot last forever
 - c. outlives the end of youth
 - d. is strongest when people are young
- ____ 28. Which of the following conclusions is *not* suggested in the final couplet of Sonnet 116?
 - a. The poet's view of love may be wrong.
 - b. It would take a lot to convince the poet he is wrong.

- c. If the poet is wrong, then love itself is false.
 - d. It is impossible for the poet to be wrong about love.
- _____ 29. Before the final couplet of Sonnet 130, the speaker seems to be —
- a. blinded by his mistress's beauty
 - b. criticizing his mistress
 - c. criticizing society
 - d. praising his mistress's modesty
- _____ 30. By the end of Sonnet 130, the reader knows that the speaker's feelings toward his mistress are —
- a. ambivalent
 - b. affectionate
 - c. uninterested
 - d. contemptuous
- _____ 31. Which of the following senses is appealed to by the imagery in lines 7–8 of Sonnet 130?
- a. Sight
 - b. Hearing
 - c. Touch
 - d. Smell
- _____ 32. What aspect of literature does Sonnet 130 mock?
- a. Shakespearean tragedy
 - b. The theater
 - c. Sentimental love poems
 - d. The idea of lasting love
- _____ 33. How does the poet feel about his mistress's voice?
- a. Its grating sound makes him cringe.
 - b. He loves to hear it.
 - c. He thinks she needs singing lessons.
 - d. He thrills at its commanding power.

Literary Focus: Shakespeare's Sonnets and Figures of Speech

The questions below refer to the selections "Sonnet 116" and "Sonnet 130."

- _____ 34. Which of the following questions about Shakespeare's sonnets is *not* a mystery?
- a. Who is the "dark lady"?
 - b. Who is the beloved male friend?
 - c. Who really wrote the sonnets?
 - d. Could the sonnets be rearranged to tell a story?
- _____ 35. According to the speaker in Sonnet 130, music, roses, and perfume —
- a. are not as lovely as his mistress's voice, skin, and breath
 - b. are false comparisons to make with the charms of true love
 - c. are divine gifts that should not be compared with anything else
 - d. have nothing to do with love

