

Poetry: Multiple-Choice Question Practice

Read the following poem carefully.

Then mark on your answer sheet the letter of the choice that best completes each statement.

(CHURCH MONUMENTS)

While that my soul repairs to her devotion,
 Here I entomb my flesh, that it betimes*
 May take acquaintance of this heap of dust,
 To which the blast of Death's incessant motion,
 5 Fed with the exhalation of our crimes,
 Drives all at last. Therefore I gladly trust

* speedily

My body to this school, that it may learn
 To spell his elements, and find his birth
 Written in dusty heraldry and lines;
 10 Which dissolution sure doth best discern,
 Comparing dust with dust, and earth with earth.
 These laugh at jet and marble, put forth for signs,

To sever the good fellowship of dust,
 And spoil the meeting: what shall point out them,
 15 When they shall bow and kneel and fall down flat
 To kiss those heaps which now they have in trust?
 Dear flesh, while I do pray, learn here thy stem
 And true descent, that when thou shalt grow fat

And wanton in thy cravings, thou mayst know
 20 That flesh is but the glass which holds the dust
 That measures all our time; which also shall
 Be crumbled into dust. Mark here below
 How tame these ashes are, how free from lust,
 That thou mayst fit thyself against thy fall.

1. The speaker in the poem is addressing which of the following?
 - (A) A church congregation
 - (B) God and his own soul
 - (C) Statues in a church
 - (D) The dead buried in a church
 - (E) Himself and his body
2. At the beginning of the poem, the speaker makes a distinction between his soul and his body. In the remainder of the poem the emphasis is mainly upon
 - (A) his soul only
 - (B) his body only
 - (C) the relation between body and soul
 - (D) virtue and vice
 - (E) life after death
3. Where is the speaker in this poem?
 - (A) On his deathbed
 - (B) In a school
 - (C) At a funeral
 - (D) In his study
 - (E) In a church
4. In line 7, "this school" refers to
 - (A) the tombs and burial vaults in a church
 - (B) a king's monument in an ancient city
 - (C) a singing school for a church choir
 - (D) the Christian philosophy of death
 - (E) the natural tragedies of life
5. The metaphors in stanza two are derived from
 - (A) education and scholarship
 - (B) the theater and pageantry
 - (C) knighthood and heraldry
 - (D) death and burial
 - (E) architecture and art
6. Lines 10-11 may be best interpreted to mean
 - (A) death comprehends the body by reducing it to dust
 - (B) the body understands death better than does the spirit
 - (C) the spirit can best conquer death by acknowledging the body's affinity with earth and dust
 - (D) the body understands death best by direct comparison of itself with dust and earth
 - (E) death is best compared to earth and dust and the spirit to light and air
7. In line 12, "These" refers to
 - (A) "jet and marble" (line 12)
 - (B) "dust" and "earth" (line 11)
 - (C) "heraldry and lines" (line 9)
 - (D) "elements" (line 8)
 - (E) "body" and "school" (line 7)
8. The reference for "thou" and "thyself" (line 24) is best understood to be
 - (A) "jet and marble" (line 12)
 - (B) "those heaps" (line 16)
 - (C) "Dear flesh" (line 17)
 - (D) "glass" (line 20)
 - (E) "these ashes" (line 23)
9. The phrase "fit thyself against thy fall" (line 24) is best interpreted to mean
 - (A) understand original sin
 - (B) fight against death
 - (C) gain grace to overcome eternal damnation
 - (D) prepare to accept thy death
 - (E) strengthen against bad fortune
10. The words "against thy fall" (line 25) make a notable ending for the poem for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:
 - (A) The word "fall" is emphasized by being the only inexact rhyme in the poem.
 - (B) A strikingly new idea is introduced into the poem.
 - (C) They remind the reader of Adam's fall into original sin.
 - (D) They echo the idea in line 15 that all things die and decay.
 - (E) They stress the importance of the lesson which the body must learn.
11. The attitude of the speaker can be best described as

(A) suspicious	(D) meditative
(B) playful	(E) violent
(C) urgent	
12. Which of the following is the most accurate description of the way death is treated in the poem?
 - (A) Death is personified as a powerful destructive force.
 - (B) Death is described in metaphorical terms of marble and color.
 - (C) Death is addressed as a kindly and comforting presence.
 - (D) Death is treated as a cold intellectual abstraction.
 - (E) Death is pictured as lean, studious, and severe.
13. The theme of this poem is most precisely stated as the
 - (A) vanity of human wishes
 - (B) supreme importance of earthly life
 - (C) pursuit of excellence
 - (D) impermanence of the flesh
 - (E) triumph of the body over the soul
14. The lesson which the body most needs to learn is

(A) pride	(D) shame
(B) virtue	(E) wantonness
(C) humility	