

English 10

Midterm Review

Short answer. Complete the questions associated with 4 of the following quotations. Be decisive and move swiftly. If you have time, complete the fifth quotation for extra credit. Please mark which quotation you intend to be extra.

1. So it won't be a cutting edge I'll wield
to mow him down, easily as I might.
He has no idea of the arts of war,
of shield or sword-play, although he does possess
a wild strength. No weapons, therefore,
for either this night: unarmed he shall face me
if face me he dares. And may the Divine Lord
in His wisdom grant the glory of victory
to whichever side He sees fit.

a. Name the text from which this passage comes. Who is the speaker of the passage? Who is "him," in line 2.

b. Give the context of the passage. What has just happened? How do the speaker's companions react to this speech?

c. What is the speaker's tone? (Tone, remember, is the attitude of the speaker toward the subject.) Give evidence from the passage to defend your idea.

d. What is the attitude of the overall text toward the theme of fate and free will? How does this passage confirm or contradict that attitude?

e. What is the outcome of the battle? What does the passage say about the status of the speaker, given the outcome of the battle?

2. I began to read, and discovered that every truth I had read in those other books was taught here also, but now inseparably from your gift of grace, so that no one who sees can boast as though what he sees and the very power to see it were not from you—for who has anything that he as not received?

a. Name the text from which this passage comes, and the author of that text. Who is the speaker of the passage?

b. The speaker has begun to read St. Paul. What in the passage reveals this information? Include in your answer what “those other books” are and the important difference the speaker describes.

c. We have discussed the theme “Salvation is the work of God, not the work of man.” What does this passage have to do with that theme?

d. What about Paul’s story makes him a particularly apt inspiration for the speaker?

e. The speaker has another encounter with the writings of St. Paul after this passage. Describe that encounter and its result.

3. Then laughing out loud the lord said, "Relax!
I'll direct you to your rendezvous when the time is right,
you'll get to the green chapel, so give up your grieving.
You can bask in your bed, bide your time,
save your fond farewells till the first of the year
and still meet him by midmorning to do as you may.

So stay.

A guide will get you there
at dawn on New Year's Day.
The place you need is near,
two miles at most away.

- a. Name the text and author as well as "the lord."
- b. Give the context of the passage. To whom is the lord speaking? What are the circumstances?
- c. Use your knowledge of the whole of the story to answer: What is the lord's purpose in this speech?
- d. What is the thematic significance of the speech?
- e. Describe the style of the piece. Mention technical names we have discussed for the style in the long lines as well as the style/form of the shortest line and the last few lines. What is the effect of this style?

4. "Nay then," said he, "beshrew us both, you know,
But first, beshrew myself, both blood and bones,
If you beguile me, having done so once,
You shall no more, with any flattery,
Cause me to sing and close up either eye.
For he who shuts his eyes when he should see,
And wilfully, God let him ne'er be free!"

a. Name the text, author, and speaker ("he") of the dialogue.

b. Give the context of the passage. What has just happened? What will happen next?

c. What is the thematic significance of the passage?

d. Describe the style of the writing (even in translation). What are the main features? What are their effects?

e. Connect the passage to another text with similar themes. Explain the connection. What do we learn from the juxtaposition of texts?

5. Down you must go then, each in his turn, to the habitation of the others and accustom yourselves to the observation of the obscure things there. For once habituated you will discern them infinitely better than the dwellers there, and you will know what each of the 'idols' is and whereof it is a semblance, because you have seen the reality of the beautiful, the just, and the good.

a. Name the text and the author.

b. Give the context of the passage: does it belong to the beginning, the middle, or the end of the work? Explain a little the surrounding material.

c. Explain what it means to "accustom" oneself "to the observation of the obscure things there."

d. How is it that "you" have special knowledge? Give this answer in terms of the story.

e. Connect this passage with another text we have read this semester. What possible connections can you make?