

English 9

Practice quotation identification for midterm

As you know, the midterm will consist of a vocabulary section, a quotation identification (gobbet) section, and an essay. These quotations and attendant questions are here to help you practice for the exam. Please try to do them in five minutes or less, without using your book or notes. Then, to check them, go back and craft a few answers that are more thorough and squarely in response to the questions asked.

1. Rage—Goddess, sing the rage of Peleus' son _____,
murderous, doomed, that cost the Achaeans countless losses,
hurling down to the House of Death so many sturdy souls,
great fighters' souls, but made their bodies carrion,
feasts for dogs and birds,
and the will of Zeus was moving toward its end.

Fill in the blank.

Name the text this work is from. Give title and author.

What is the name for the portion of the text this passage is from?

What is the importance in the larger text of the mention in the passage of the bodies of the dead?

What is the importance of the passage to the theme of fate and free will?

2. And the moon, coming and going—
Wearisome, like watching the sea
From a deathbed. Like watching the tide
In its prison yard, with its two turns
In and out.
I'm sick of the heavens, sick of the darkness.
The one light I wait for never comes.

Name the title, author, and speaker associated with this passage:

What is the context?

To what do you attribute the emotion of the speaker? Be specific, showing your mastery of text.

Discuss the light imagery, as it appears in this passage. What does the light signify literally in the plot? What does it signify figuratively?

In other places in the story, light imagery is also associated with heat and fire. Give one example of this kind of imagery. How does it work?

3. _____ urged _____, warmly urged her guest,
“Up with you now, my friend, and off to town we go.
I’ll see you into my wise father’s palace where,
I promise you, you’ll meet all the best Phaeacians.
Wait, let’s do it this way...”

Name the title, author, and characters (fill in the blanks) associated with this passage:

Give the context of the passage:

What does the speaker of the dialogue propose immediately after the passage? Why?

On the level of plot, how does this advice work out?

When the guest arrives in Phaeacia, what are the consequences of this advice? How does the guest handle those consequences? What is the outcome?

Finally, how does the text treat disguise, cunning, and deceit?

4. Justice! At last the day of justice has dawned.
This is perfect proof that the gods
Watch men and punish evil.
What a beautiful sight
To see this man gagged and bound
In meshes knotted by the furies!

Name the title, author, and speaker associated with this passage:

What is the context of the passage?

What is the speaker's main message?

Why does the speaker believe that "the day of justice has dawned"? Be specific, showing your mastery of text.

Explain the use of the net imagery in this passage. How does it work?

Give another example of net imagery from this text. To what end does the text use it?

5. “The son of Tydeus stabbed me,
_____, that overweening, insolent—all because
I was bearing off my son from the fighting.”

Name the work from which this passage comes. Give title and author.

Fill in the blank. (It is the name of “the son of Tydeus.”)

What is the name of the event that leads to this stabbing?

Who is stabbed?

EC: Name the son removed from the battlefield.

EEC: What is the importance of this character in larger mythology?

What is the importance of this passage to the theme of hubris? How is this theme important in this text as a whole?