

English 10  
Midterm Practice: Quotation Identification

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. ...[W]e had retired to our house near Belrive, when we witnessed a most violent and terrible thunder-storm. It advanced from behind the mountains of Jura; and the thunder burst at once with frightful loudness from various quarters of the heavens. I remained, while the storm lasted, watching its progress with curiosity and delight. As I stood at the door, on a sudden I beheld a stream of fire issue from an old and beautiful oak, which stood about twenty yards from our house; and so soon as the dazzling light vanished, the oak had disappeared, and nothing remained but a blasted stump.

Speaker:

Context; when in the story does this passage occur?

What does the observation of the tree inspire in the speaker?

This image occurs again, later in the story. When? What does it mean when it reoccurs?

In what way does this passage reflect Gothic preoccupations (ideas, themes) in the larger text?

2. But while I roamed those lands, amassing a fortune,  
a stranger killed my brother, blind to the danger, duped, blind—  
thanks to the cunning of his cursed, murderous queen!  
So I rule all this wealth with no great joy...

Speaker:

Context: Where are we in the story (beginning, middle, end)? In what setting does this passage take place?

What is the significance of this passage to the larger story? What does the reference to “my brother” mean? Make clear who and what situation the passage refers to, and then discuss the implications of the connection.

3. “I expected this reception,” said \_\_\_\_\_. “All man hate the wretched; how then must I be hated, who am miserable beyond all living things!”

Fill in the blank.

Place the passage in the story. Where are we (beginning, middle, end)? And in what setting are we?

Why does the person addressed “hate” the speaker? Give more than one reason.

What happens next in the story?

In light of this passage and this part of the text, of what is the speaker may be read as a symbol. Choose two possibilities of the following, and explain how the symbolism is possible: technology, the poor, unrestrained ambition.

4. Three times he made it shudder, straining to bend it,  
three times his power flagged—but his hopes ran high  
he'd string his \_\_\_\_\_'s \_\_\_\_\_ and shoot through every iron  
and how, struggling with all his might for the fourth time,  
he would have strung the \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ shook his head  
and stopped him short despite his tensing zeal.

Fill in the first blank. Then, fill in the second and third blanks with the same noun. Finally, fill in the fourth blank with a name.

Who is the "he" in this passage?

Where in the story does this occur (beginning, middle, end)? In what setting?

What is happening in before and after this passage?

What is the thematic significance of the passage?

5. Sweet and beloved \_\_\_\_\_! I read and re-read her letter, and some softened feelings stole into my heart, and dared to whisper paradisaical dreams of love and joy; but the apple was already eaten, and the angel's arm bared to drive me from all hope.

Speaker:

Fill in the blank:

Identify the context of the passage. Where are we in the story (beginning, middle, end)? What has just happened? What will happen next?

There is a double allusion in the passage. Name the two texts referred to (at one time).

What is the relationship of this passage to Aristotle's ideas of tragedy?

In what way is "the apple already eaten"? What does the speaker know and what does he fear?