

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.

Fill in the blank.

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. Never—only the gods deserve the pomps of honor
and the stiff brocades of fame. To walk on them...
I am human, and it makes my pulses stir
with dread.

From what text does this passage come? Give title and author.

Who is the speaker of the passage?

What is the context of the passage?

What is the significance of the passage to the characterization of the speaker?

What is the significance of the passage to the larger themes of the text?

3. "I called back with another burst of anger, '_____—
If any man on the face of the earth should ask you
who blinded you, shamed you so—say _____,
raider of cities, *he* gouged out your eye,
Laertes' son who makes his home in _____."

Fill in the blanks (noun/name, name, place).

Name the text this passage comes from. Give title and author.

Give the context of the passage.

How does the one addressed answer?

Give the significance of the passage to the characterization of the speaker.

Give the significance of the passage to the larger themes of the text.

4. “He had no way to flee or fight his destiny—
our never-ending, all embracing net, I cast it.”

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

Who is the speaker?

Who is the “I”?

Explain the symbolism of the net in the larger text.

Explain the passage in relation to fate and free will. Develop your answer in three or four sentences.

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?