

University Interscholastic League
Literary Criticism Contest • Sample Test • Fall 2017

Part 1: Knowledge of Literary Terms and of Literary History

30 items (1 point each)

1. A statement that although seemingly contradictory or absurd may be well founded or true is a(n)
 - A) antiphrasis.
 - B) equivoque.
 - C) oxymoron.
 - D) paradox.
 - E) paraleipsis.
2. The author of *Light in August*, *The Sound and the Fury*, *The Unvanquished*, *As I Lay Dying*, and *Absalom, Absalom!* is
 - A) John Cheever.
 - B) William Faulkner.
 - C) Larry McMurtry.
 - D) John Steinbeck.
 - E) John Updike.
3. The term applied to a work of a group of contemporary poets whose poetry features a public and sometimes painful display of private, personal matters is
 - A) concrete poetry.
 - B) confessional poetry.
 - C) cowboy poetry.
 - D) metaphysical poetry.
 - E) surrealist poetry.
4. **Not** likely to sit down at the local pub or tavern to share a drink and conversation with the others listed below is
 - A) Geoffrey Chaucer.
 - B) Ben Jonson.
 - C) Thomas Kyd.
 - D) Christopher Marlowe.
 - E) William Shakespeare.
5. The identity of terminal sound between accented syllables, usually occupying corresponding positions in two or more lines of verse is known as
 - A) melopoeia.
 - B) mythopoeia.
 - C) rhyme.
 - D) rhythm.
 - E) zeugma.
6. A novel in which actual persons are presented under the guise of fiction is known as a
 - A) *roman à clef*.
 - B) *roman à thèse*.
 - C) *roman de geste*.
 - D) *roman-fleuve*.
 - E) *roman noir*.
7. A figure of speech that can be used to heighten effect, including humorous effect, through exaggeration, is
 - A) gigantism.
 - B) hyperbole.
 - C) litotes.
 - D) meiosis.
 - E) understatement.
8. A sustained and formal poem setting forth a meditation on death or another solemn theme that might have been occasioned by the death of a particular person is called a(n)
 - A) aubade.
 - B) elegy.
 - C) eulogy.
 - D) ode.
 - E) paean.
9. The American playwright who won several Pulitzer Prizes for Drama, the last one posthumously in 1957, is
 - A) Eugene O'Neill.
 - B) Robert E. Sherwood.
 - C) Alfred Uhry.
 - D) Tennessee Williams.
 - E) August Wilson.
10. The period of English literary history that saw the full flowering of realism and during which authors turned a critical eye on society is the
 - A) Augustan Age.
 - B) Elizabethan Age.
 - C) Jacobean Age.
 - D) Restoration Age.
 - E) Victorian Age.

