

**University Interscholastic League**  
**Literary Criticism Contest • Sample Test • Fall 2013**

**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.

Part 2: The UIL Reading List

20 items (2 points each)

Items 11-12 are associated with Molière's *Tartuffe*, or *The Impostor*.

Items 13-14 are associated with Cormac McCarthy's *All the Pretty Horses*.

Items 15-16 are associated with Robert Browning's poetry (selected).

11. In Molière's *Tartuffe* Orgon's chiding of the servant Dorine, "In his district he holds important lands, / And he's a gentleman just as he stands," is an attempt to defend
- Cléante.
  - Damis.
  - Monsieur Loyal.
  - Tartuffe.
  - Valère.
12. "In short you must obey the master's voice, / And show yourself compliant to my choice" is Orgon's expectation of
- Dorine.
  - Elmire.
  - Flipote.
  - Mariane.
  - Madame Pernelle.
13. In McCarthy's *All the Pretty Horses*, the town from which John Grady Cole begins his adventure is
- Amarillo.
  - Austin.
  - Lubbock.
  - San Angelo.
  - San Antonio.
14. John Grady Cole wonders "whether he would throw the game and he realized that he had in fact already considered it and he knew she thought of it before he had"; the game is a
- game of checkers with Abuela.
  - game of checkers with Alfonsa.
  - game of chess with Abuela.
  - game of chess with Alfonsa.
  - game of spin the bottle with Mary Catherine.
15. Robert Browning's poem "Porphyria's Lover" is a(n)
- aside.
  - conversation poem.
  - dramatic monologue.
  - interior monologue.
  - soliloquy.
16. In Browning's "Andrea del Sarto" the speaker's lines, "Four great walls in the New Jerusalem, / [. . .] / For Leonard, Rafael, Agnolo and me / To cover," is an egoistic appraisal of the quality of his
- architecture.
  - concealing graffiti.
  - dubstepping.
  - painting.
  - sculpting.

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**Part 3: Ability in Literary Criticism**  
15 items (2 points each)

**Items 17-18 refer to Robert Browning's**  
**The Statue and the Bust**  
(excerpted)

And still, as love's brief morning wore, 130  
With a gentle start, half smile, half sigh,  
They found love not as it seemed before.

They thought it would work infallibly,  
But not in despite of heaven and earth: 134  
The rose would blow when the storm passed by.

Meantime they could profit in winter's dearth  
By store of fruits that supplant the rose:  
The world and its ways have a certain worth:

And to press a point while these oppose  
Were simple policy; better wait: 140  
We lose no friends and we gain no foes.

17. The continuation of sense and grammatical construction of a line of poetry on to the next verse, as exhibited in lines 138-139 is called
- enjambment.
  - inversion.
  - litotes.
  - tag-line.
  - truncation.
18. The verse form characterizing Browning's poem is the
- ballade.
  - long measure.
  - sestina.
  - short measure.
  - terza rima.