

University Interscholastic League

Literary Criticism Contest • Sample

Part 1: Knowledge of Literary Terms and of Literary History

30 items (1 point each)

- A novel in which actual persons are presented under the guise of fiction is known as a
 - roman à clef*.
 - roman à thèse*.
 - roman de geste*.
 - roman-fleuve*.
 - roman noir*.
- The term that denotes a fanciful notion, usually expressed through an elaborate analogy and pointing to a striking parallel between ostensibly dissimilar things is a(n)
 - conceit.
 - dead metaphor.
 - euphemism.
 - kenning.
 - simile.
- The final unraveling, or unknitting, of a plot, the solution of a mystery, or an explanation or outcome of a narrative or drama is the
 - climax.
 - dénouement*.
 - epiphany.
 - peripety.
 - recalcitrance.
- The author of *Light in August*, *The Sound and the Fury*, *The Unvanquished*, *As I Lay Dying*, and *Absalom, Absalom!* is
 - John Cheever.
 - William Faulkner.
 - Larry McMurtry.
 - John Steinbeck.
 - John Updike.
- A composition written as though intended to be sung out of doors at night under a window and in praise of a loved one is a(n)
 - aubade.
 - ballad.
 - charm.
 - lament.
 - serenade.
- Not associated with the collecting of or the writing of the fairy tale is (are)
 - Hans Christian Andersen.
 - the Brothers Grimm.
 - Nathaniel Hawthorne.
 - Rudyard Kipling.
 - Oscar Wilde.
- Having died before the appearance of and thus not able to have experienced the dramatized spiritual anguish of the human condition that characterizes the Theater of the Absurd is
 - Samuel Beckett.
 - Martin Esslin.
 - Thomas Hardy.
 - Eugène Ionesco.
 - Harold Pinter.
- A statement that although seemingly contradictory or absurd may be well founded or true is a(n)
 - antiphrasis.
 - equivoque.
 - oxymoron.
 - paradox.
 - paraleipsis.
- The American playwright who won several Pulitzer Prizes for Drama, the last one posthumously in 1957, is
 - Eugene O'Neill.
 - Robert E. Sherwood.
 - Alfred Uhry.
 - Tennessee Williams.
 - August Wilson.
- A play on words based on the similarity of sound between two words with different meanings is called a(n)
 - antonomasia.
 - hypallage.
 - polyptoton.
 - pun.
 - understatement.

Part 2: The UIL Reading List

20 items (2 points each)

Items 11-12 are associated with George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*.

Items 13-14 are associated with Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*.

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

11. "Simply phonetics The science of speech. That's my profession: also my hobby. Happy is the man who can make a living by his hobby!" is the rejoinder that fully introduces us to
- A) Alfred Doolittle.
 - B) Freddy Eynsford Hill.
 - C) Henry Higgins.
 - D) Colonel Pickering.
 - E) George Bernard Shaw.
12. "[She speaks English t]oo perfectly Can you shew me any English woman who speaks English as it should be spoken ? Only foreigners who have been taught to speak it speak it well" is an observation offered by
- A) Eliza Doolittle.
 - B) Freddy Eynsford Hill.
 - C) Nepommuck.
 - D) Mrs. Pearce.
 - E) Ezra D. Wannafeller.
13. "He had loved Martha more than his men, and as a consequence Lavender was now dead, and this was something he would have to carry like a stone in his stomach for the rest of the war"; he is
- A) Elroy Berdahl.
 - B) Norman Bowker.
 - C) Jimmy Cross.
 - D) Henry Dobbins.
 - E) Dave Jensen.
14. "Ten billion places we could've set up last night, the man picks a latrine," the latrine becoming the site where
- A) Azar dies.
 - B) Kiowa dies.
 - C) Lavender dies.
 - D) Lemon dies.
 - E) Mary Anne dies.
15. Frost's persona, in addressing a star: "O Star (the fairest one in sight) / We grant you [. . .]" has
- A) apostrophized the star.
 - B) immortalized the star.
 - C) mesmerized the star.
 - D) personified the star.
 - E) satirized the star.
16. In the same Frost poem, "Choose Something Like a Star," the simile found in the lines "And steadfast as Keats's Eremite / Not even stooping from its sphere" depends on a(n)
- A) allusion.
 - B) metaphor.
 - C) oxymoron.
 - D) tautology.
 - E) understatement.

Part 3: Ability in Literary Criticism

15 items (2 points each)

Items 17-18 refer to Philip Larkin's

Talking in Bed

Talking in bed ought to be easiest,
Lying together there goes back so far,
An emblem of two people being honest.

Yet more and more time passes silently.
Outside, the wind's incomplete unrest
Builds and disperses clouds in the sky,

And dark towns heap up on the horizon.
None of this cares for us. Nothing shows why
At this unique distance from isolation

It becomes still more difficult to find
Words at once true and kind,
Or not untrue and not unkind.

17. Lines 4 and 6 of Philip Larkin's "Talking in Bed" exhibit
- A) compound rhyme.
 - B) eye rhyme.
 - C) feminine rhyme.
 - D) masculine rhyme.
 - E) near rhyme.
18. The final line of the Larkin's "Talking in Bed" offers two examples of
- A) a complication.
 - B) double dactyls.
 - C) double entendre.
 - D) litotes.
 - E) a palindrome.