

PRACTICE TEST QUESTIONS #1

SHAKESPEARE'S "SHALL I COMPARE THEE TO A SUMMER'S DAY?"

1. "Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day?" by William Shakespeare is mostly about:
 - a. the many beauties of summer.
 - b. a loved woman's death.
 - c. a poet's celebration of his beloved.
 - d. the fact that love can be disappointing.
2. In "Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day?" what do we learn about the poet's beloved?
 - a. We learn that she has a fair complexion and gold hair.
 - b. We learn that she looks much younger than she really is.
 - c. We learn little about her appearance but find out that she has a mild temper.
 - d. We learn very little except that she is very attractive.
3. Within each of the three quatrains of Shakespeare's sonnet, which lines rhyme?
 - a. All four rhyme with each other.
 - b. The first and second rhyme, and the third and fourth rhyme.
 - c. Only the first and third rhymed.
 - d. The first and third rhyme, and the second and fourth rhyme.
4. According to Shakespeare, Death can be defeated by:
 - a. religion.
 - b. art.
 - c. science.
 - d. nature.
5. What is the tone of the couplet at the end of "Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day?"
 - a. questioning
 - b. confident
 - c. fearful
 - d. melancholy
6. When he compares his beloved to a summer day, William Shakespeare decides that she
 - a. reminds him of May flowers
 - b. is as passionate as the summer sun.
 - c. is lovelier than summer.
 - d. is as lovely as summer.
7. Shakespeare tells his beloved that
 - a. his sonnet will make her immortal.
 - b. he will join her in death.
 - c. they must part soon.
 - d. the sun is jealous of her radiance.

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8. In "Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day," the speaker says that the beloved's "eternal summer" shall
- a. burn in a bonfire of leaves.
 - b. not fade.
 - c. fade in Death's shade.
 - d. decline with nature's changing course.
9. Shakespearean sonnets contain
- a. three quatrains, followed by a couplet
 - b. three lines of five, seven, and five syllables.
 - c. two stanzas of iambic pentameter
 - d. an octave and a sestet, followed by a couplet.
10. The first twelve lines of a Shakespearean sonnet are rhymed
- a. decdecdefdef.
 - b. abbabbaccabb.
 - c. ababdcdefef.
 - d. ababddceffe.
11. All Shakespearean (or English) sonnets have
- a. fourteen lines of five accented syllables each followed by an unaccented syllable.
 - b. twelve lines of couplets.
 - c. fourteen unrhymed lines of iambic pentameter.
 - d. fourteen lines of iambic pentameter.
12. The last two lines of a Shakespearean sonnet
- a. make a prediction about the future.
 - b. sum up the poem or comment on what has already been said.
 - c. introduce a new idea.
 - d. explores a different aspect of the poem's central idea.
13. The couplet in Shakespeare's "Shall I Compare Thee ..." is rhymed
- a. efef
 - b. aa.
 - c. gg.
 - d. bb.

PRACTICE TEST QUESTIONS #2

PETRARCH'S "LAURA" & "SPRING"

1. The Petrarchan sonnet originated in
a. France. b. Italy c. America. d. England.
2. The first eight lines of a Petrarchan sonnet are called the
a. octave. b. sestet. c. quatrain d. prelude.
3. The rhyme scheme of the octave is usually
a. abbaabba. b. ababcbcd. c. abcabcab. d. cdecdec
4. What does the speaker in "Laura" now recognize about Laura?
a. She is much kinder than he had previously thought.
b. She is much younger than he had previously thought.
c. She is not as wonderful as he had previously thought.
d. She is immortal.
5. If you read aloud these lines about Laura's eyes in "Laura," where should you pause?
(Seldom they shine so now.) I used to see
Pity look out of those deep eyes on me.
a. after *now* and *see* c. after *see* and *me*
b. after *now* and *me* d. after *now*, *see*, and *me*
6. To what does the "wound" in this line of "Laura" refer?
Well, though the bow's unbent, the wound bleeds on.
a. the wound of Cupid's arrow, representing the speaker's love
b. the wounded feelings the speaker has felt since realizing what Laura is really like
c. the wounded feelings the speaker has experienced since bowing before Laura
d. the painful wound of Laura's death
7. How are the ideas organized in the sonnet "Spring"?
a. The octave describes the joyful rebirth of spring, which the sestet contrasts with the speaker's sorrow.
b. The octave describes the beauty of spring, which the sestet compares to the beauty of the speaker's beloved.
c. The octave describes a windy spring day, while the sestet describes a sunny one.
d. The octave describes March and April, while the sestet describes May and June.
8. In "Spring," what is the main thing that the spring season reminds the speaker of?
a. the music of birds
b. the four basic elements—water, air, fire, and earth
c. his unrequited love
d. the many other gracious ladies with whom he can fall in love, if only he lets himself

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9. Reread the last two lines of “Spring.” What does the final image most likely suggest?

Ladies are gracious now. –Where deserts burn
The beasts still prowl on the ungreening sand.

- a. In spite of the coming of spring, the speaker feels as though he is still in a desert.
- b. The speaker’s beloved is like a desert flower, more beautiful than green spring flowers.
- c. The speaker’s beloved is like a cruel beast in a dry land.
- d. Our hunger is like a beast that continues to prowl, hunting for food that is not burned.

10. What do lines 9-11 of “Spring” suggest has happened to the speaker’s beloved?

But to me only heavy sighs return
For her who carried in her little hand
My heart’s key to her heavenly sojourn.

- a. She has spurned his love.
- b. She has been forced to wed another.
- c. She has died.
- d. She has grown old and fat.