

ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

SECTION I

Time—1 hour and 15 minutes

Directions: This section consists of selections from literary works and questions on their content, form, and style. After reading each passage or poem, choose the best answer to each question and blacken the corresponding space on the answer sheet.

Note: Pay particular attention to the requirement of questions that contain the words NOT, LEAST, or EXCEPT.

Questions 1-15. Read the following passage carefully before you choose your answers.

Janie starched and ironed her face and came set in the funeral behind her veil. It was like a wall of stone and steel. The funeral was going on outside. All things concerning death and burial were said and done. Finish. End. Nevermore. Darkness. Deep hole. Dissolution. Eternity. Weeping and wailing outside. Inside the expensive black folds were resurrection and life. She did not reach outside for anything, nor did the things of death reach inside to disturb her calm. She sent her face to Joe's funeral, and herself went rollicking with the springtime across the world. After a while the people finished their celebration and Janie went on home.

Before she slept that night she burnt up every one of her head rags and went about the house next morning with her hair in one thick braid swinging well below her waist. That was the only change people saw in her. She kept the store in the same way except of evenings she sat on the porch and listened and sent Hezekiah in to wait on late custom. She saw no reason to rush at changing things around. She would have the rest of her life to do as she pleased.

Most of the day she was at the store, but at night she was there in the big house and sometimes it creaked and cried all night under the weight of lonesomeness. Then she'd lie awake in bed asking lonesomeness some questions. She asked if she wanted to leave and go back where she had come from and try to find her mother. Maybe tend her grandmother's grave. Sort of look over the old stamping ground generally. Digging around inside of herself like that she found that she had no interest in that seldomseen mother at all. She hated her grandmother and had hidden it from herself all these years under a cloak of pity. She had been getting ready for her great journey to the horizons in search of people; it was important to all the world that she should find them and they find her. But she had been whipped like a cur dog, and run off down a back road after things. It was all according to the way you see things. Some people could look at a mud-puddle and see an ocean with ships. But

Nanny belonged to that other kind that loved to deal in scraps. Here Nanny had taken the biggest thing God ever made, the horizon—for no matter how far a person can go the horizon is still way beyond you—and pinched it in to such a little bit of a thing that she could tie it about her granddaughter's neck tight enough to choke her. She hated the old woman who had twisted her so in the name of love. Most humans didn't love one another nohow, and this mis-love was so strong that even common blood couldn't overcome it all the time. She had found a jewel down inside herself and she had wanted to walk where people could see her and gleam it around. But she had been set in the market-place to sell. Been set for still-bait. When God had made The Man, he made him out of stuff that sung all the time and glittered all over. Then after that some angels got jealous and chopped him into millions of pieces, but still he glittered and hummed. So they beat him down to nothing but sparks but each little spark had a shine and a song. So they covered each one over with mud. And the lonesomeness in the sparks make them hunt for one another, but the mud is deaf and dumb. Like all the other tumbling mud-balls, Janie had tried to show her shine.

(45) Janie found out very soon that her widowhood and property was a great challenge in South Florida. Before Jody had been dead a month, she noticed how often men who had never been intimates of Joe drove considerable distances to ask after her welfare and offer their services as advisor.

(50) Janie laughed at all these well-wishers because she knew that they knew plenty of women alone; that she was not the first one they had ever seen. But most of the others were poor. Besides she liked being lonesome for a change.

1. The phrase "starched and ironed her face" (line 1) is best interpreted to mean that Janie
 - (A) kept her composure by doing household chores
 - (B) stiffened her resolve to confront painful reminders of her past
 - (C) erected a façade appropriate to a formal occasion
 - (D) resolved her emotional ambivalence toward her late husband
 - (E) determined to keep her grief under control during the funeral

2. The phrase "rollicking with the springtime across the world" (lines 11-12) evokes Janie's
 - (A) attitude toward her own future
 - (B) evident panic at being a widow
 - (C) disdain for the other mourners
 - (D) preoccupation with natural events
 - (E) desperation in fleeing from reality

3. The phrase "asking lonesomeness some questions" (lines 27-28) presents an example of
 - (A) soliloquy
 - (B) paradox
 - (C) personification
 - (D) ambiguity
 - (E) dramatic irony

4. Janie had hated her grandmother primarily for
 - (A) physically abusing her when Janie disobeyed
 - (B) encouraging Janie's self-reliance without much affection
 - (C) insisting that Janie provide for her own support
 - (D) trying to be her friend when Janie wanted only to be alone
 - (E) systematically repressing Janie's free spirit

5. The image of a "great journey" (line 37) is a reference to
 - (A) life after death
 - (B) life as a married woman
 - (C) a return to childhood haunts
 - (D) the full experience of life
 - (E) an escape from reality

6. In context, which of the following depends on "the way you see things" (line 42)?
 - (A) Material success
 - (B) Popularity with others
 - (C) The effect of loneliness
 - (D) Your chance of achieving fulfillment
 - (E) Your attitude toward God and the church

7. In context, the phrase "deal in scraps" (line 45) is best interpreted to mean
 - (A) condemn the worthlessness of the world
 - (B) find beauty in unexpected places
 - (C) preserve the values of the past
 - (D) salvage what others might deem useless
 - (E) focus narrowly on practical problems

8. The parable of creation (lines 59-66) serves primarily to
 - (A) provide a contrast to the funeral described earlier
 - (B) illustrate Janie's self-perception and philosophy of life
 - (C) summarize the early influences on Janie's behavior
 - (D) emphasize the effect of Janie's new-found freedom
 - (E) demonstrate differences between Janie's ideas and the author's

9. Janie believed that the very basic characteristic of human nature is its
 - (A) uncontrollable greed
 - (B) dull practicality
 - (C) unselfish generosity
 - (D) reckless courage
 - (E) irrepressible joy

10. In the parable of creation, "each little spark" (line 64) most likely represents
 - (A) an angel
 - (B) a prayer
 - (C) a human soul
 - (D) appreciation of nature
 - (E) an instance of love

The passage is reprinted below for your use in answering the remaining questions.

Janie starched and ironed her face and came set in the funeral behind her veil. It was like a wall of stone and steel. The funeral was going on outside. All things concerning death and burial were said
(5) and done. Finish. End. Nevermore. Darkness. Deep hole. Dissolution. Eternity. Weeping and wailing outside. Inside the expensive black folds were resurrection and life. She did not reach outside for anything, nor did the things of death reach inside to
(10) disturb her calm. She sent her face to Joe's funeral, and herself went rollicking with the springtime across the world. After a while the people finished their celebration and Janie went on home.

Before she slept that night she burnt up every
(15) one of her head rags and went about the house next morning with her hair in one thick braid swinging well below her waist. That was the only change people saw in her. She kept the store in the same way except of evenings she sat on the porch and
(20) listened and sent Hezekiah in to wait on late custom. She saw no reason to rush at changing things around. She would have the rest of her life to do as she pleased.

Most of the day she was at the store, but at
(25) night she was there in the big house and sometimes it creaked and cried all night under the weight of lonesomeness. Then she'd lie awake in bed asking lonesomeness some questions. She asked if she wanted to leave and go back where she had come
(30) from and try to find her mother. Maybe tend her grandmother's grave. Sort of look over the old stamping ground generally. Digging around inside of herself like that she found that she had no interest in that seldomseen mother at all. She hated her
(35) grandmother and had hidden it from herself all these years under a cloak of pity. She had been getting ready for her great journey to the horizons in search of people; it was important to all the world that she should find them and they find her. But
(40) she had been whipped like a cur dog, and run off down a back road after things. It was all according to the way you see things. Some people could look at a mud-puddle and see an ocean with ships. But

Nanny belonged to that other kind that loved to
(45) deal in scraps. Here Nanny had taken the biggest thing God ever made, the horizon—for no matter how far a person can go the horizon is still way beyond you—and pinched it in to such a little bit of a thing that she could tie it about her grand-
(50) daughter's neck tight enough to choke her. She hated the old woman who had twisted her so in the name of love. Most humans didn't love one another nohow, and this mis-love was so strong that even common blood couldn't overcome it all
(55) the time. She had found a jewel down inside herself and she had wanted to walk where people could see her and gleam it around. But she had been set in the market-place to sell. Been set for still-bait. When God had made The Man, he made him out
(60) of stuff that sung all the time and glittered all over. Then after that some angels got jealous and chopped him into millions of pieces, but still he glittered and hummed. So they beat him down to nothing but sparks but each little spark had a shine
(65) and a song. So they covered each one over with mud. And the lonesomeness in the sparks make them hunt for one another, but the mud is deaf and dumb. Like all the other tumbling mud-balls, Janie had tried to show her shine.

(70) Janie found out very soon that her widowhood and property was a great challenge in South Florida. Before Jody had been dead a month, she noticed how often men who had never been intimates of Joe drove considerable distances to ask
(75) after her welfare and offer their services as advisor.

Janie laughed at all these well-wishers because she knew that they knew plenty of women alone; that she was not the first one they had ever seen. But most of the others were poor. Besides she liked being lonesome for a change.

11. It can be inferred that each man who drove "considerable distances" (line 74) to see Janie was
- (A) assuaging his guilt for not having been closer to Joe
 - (B) interested in helping her preserve her financial integrity
 - (C) concerned that she might get depressed and withdraw completely from society
 - (D) hoping to convince her that he would be a worthy successor to Joe
 - (E) troubled to see Janie fail to live according to religious principles
12. Which of the following best describes Janie at the end of the passage?
- (A) She is about to become a recluse after having seen the world's foolishness.
 - (B) She feels free from social constraints and confident about the future.
 - (C) She remains bitter about her childhood but she is now able to forgive.
 - (D) She has concluded that material wealth is not necessarily evil.
 - (E) She is determined to ignore the intervening years and be childlike again.
13. The tone of the last two paragraphs (lines 70-80) is best described as
- (A) cynical exaggeration
 - (B) gentle sarcasm
 - (C) ironic anger
 - (D) forced glee
 - (E) feigned sympathy
14. Which of the following best describes how Janie felt about the influence of her mother and grandmother on her character?
- (A) She felt that it had been very strong, accounting for her honesty and industriousness.
 - (B) She dismissed it as negligible, but remembered her stern upbringing with appreciation.
 - (C) She still harbored some resentment, but was confident that she had matured intact.
 - (D) She believed that she would never understand them and they would never understand her.
 - (E) She worried that as she grew older she would become more like them instead of freer from their effect.
15. All of the following represent figurative language EXCEPT
- (A) "expensive black folds" (line 7)
 - (B) "the weight of lonesomeness" (lines 26-27)
 - (C) "a cloak of pity" (line 36)
 - (D) "a jewel down inside herself" (line 55)
 - (E) "the market-place" (line 58)