

## 1994 AP English Literature

### MULTIPLE CHOICE

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 fill in the corresponding oval on the answer sheet.

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

#### A Whippoorwill in the Woods

- Night after night, it was very nearly enough,  
 they said, to drive you crazy: a whippoorwill  
 in the woods repeating itself like the stuck groove  
 of an LP with a defect, and no way possible  
 (5) of turning the thing off.
- And night after night, they said, in the insomniac  
 small hours the whipsawing voice of obsession  
 would have come in closer, the way a sick  
 thing does when it's done for--or maybe the reason  
 (10) was nothing more melodramatic
- than a night-flying congregation of moths, lured in  
 in their turn by house-glow, the strange heat  
 of it--imagine the nebular dangerousness, if one  
 were a moth, the dark pockmarked with beaks, the great  
 (15) dim shapes, the bright extinction
- if moths are indeed, after all, what a whippoorwill  
 favors. Who knows? Anyhow, from one point of view  
 insects are to be seen as an ailment, moths above all:  
 the filmed-over, innumerable nodes of spun-out tissue  
 (20) untidying the trees, the larval
- spew of such hairy hordes, one wonders what use  
 they can be other than as a guarantee no bird  
 goes hungry. We're like that. The webbiness,  
 the gregariousness of the many are what we can't abide.  
 (25) We single out for notice

above all what's disjunct, the way birds are,  
with their unhooked-up, cheekily anarchic  
dartings and flashings, their uncalled-for color the  
indelible look of the rose-breasted grosbeak  
(30) an aunt of mine, a noticer

of such things before the noticing had or needed  
a name, drew my five-year-old attention up to, in  
the green deeps of a maple. She never married,  
believed her cat had learned to leave birds alone,  
(35) and for years, node after node,

by lingering degrees she made way within for  
what wasn't so much a thing as it was a system,  
a webwork of error that throve until it killed her.  
What is health? We must all die sometime.  
(40) Whatever it is out there

in the woods, that begins to seem like  
a species of madness, we survive as we can:  
the hooked-up, the humdrum, the brief, tragic  
wonder of being at all. The whippoorwill out in  
(45) the woods, for me, brought back

as by a relay, from a place at such a distance  
no recollection now in place could reach so far,  
the memory of a memory she told me of once:  
of how her father, my grandfather, by whatever  
(50) now unfathomable happenstance,

carried her (she might have been five) into the breathing night.  
"Listen!" she said he'd said. "Did you hear it?  
That was a whippoorwill." And she (and I) never forgot.

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1. In the first stanza, the whippoorwill is presented chiefly as
  - A) a kind of poet
  - B) a symbol of death
  - C) an emblem of freedom
  - D) an annoyance
  - E) a messenger
2. The whippoorwill is most probably called a "voice of obsession" (line 7) because it
  - A) has a shrill cry
  - B) repeats itself
  - C) is invisible
  - D) constantly tries to come nearer
  - E) is probably sick

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3. How many reasons does the speaker give to try to explain why the whippoorwill "would have come in closer" (line 8)?
- A) One
  - B) Two
  - C) Three
  - D) Four
  - E) Five
4. The speaker hypothesizes that moths might be
- A) bent on self-destruction
  - B) dangerous to whippoorwills
  - C) more like human beings than whippoorwills are
  - D) heroic actors in a tragic drama
  - E) food for whippoorwills
5. The diction used to describe moths in lines 19-21 suggests that
- A) science is slowly beginning to understand certain mysteries
  - B) the speaker finds some aspects of nature alien to her
  - C) nature is able to provide a truly tragic spectacle
  - D) nature is governed by a higher power
  - E) the beauty of nature is a source of comfort to the speaker
6. In line 26, "what's disjunct" refers to something that
- A) cannot be seen by most observers
  - B) stands outside the purely natural world
  - C) is broken and fragmented
  - D) faces a constant threat of extinction
  - E) is not incorporated in a larger entity
7. The object of "to" in line 32 is
- A) "look" (line 29)
  - B) "aunt" (line 30)
  - C) "things" (line 31)
  - D) "name" (line 32)
  - E) "deeps" (line 33)
8. For the speaker, the rose-breasted grosbeak and the whippoorwill are similar in that they both
- A) have the ability to disturb people's sleep
  - B) feed principally on moths
  - C) stand out as individuals amid their surroundings
  - D) symbolize the individuality of the speaker
  - E) are natural creatures that seem to violate the laws of nature

9. In line 34, the speaker implies that the aunt
- A) had lived most of her life fearing natural disaster
  - B) was curious about scientific information that dealt with nature
  - C) understood nature better than the speaker
  - D) preferred not to face certain realities about nature
  - E) was largely indifferent to her natural surroundings
10. In line 38, the cause of the aunt's death is described in language most similar to that used by the speaker to describe
- A) cats
  - B) birds
  - C) moths
  - D) the whippoorwill
  - E) the grandfather
11. In the poem as a whole, the speaker views nature as being essentially
- A) inspiring
  - B) comforting
  - C) unfathomable
  - D) vicious
  - E) benign
12. The speaker makes a categorical assertion at all of the following places in the poem EXCEPT
- A) lines 1-2
  - B) lines 17-18
  - C) lines 23-24
  - D) lines 25-26
  - E) lines 40-43
13. Which of the following lines contains an example of personification?
- A) Line 33
  - B) Line 39
  - C) Line 43
  - D) Line 48
  - E) Line 51
14. Lines 44-53 have all of the following functions EXCEPT to
- A) return to the initial subject of the poem
  - B) illustrate the influence of childhood experience
  - C) link the present to the past
  - D) emphasize the chaotic quality of natural events
  - E) evoke a family relationship

15. The grandfather's words (lines 52-53) convey a sense of
- A) regret
  - B) awe
  - C) tragedy
  - D) hope
  - E) danger