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LITERARY CRITICISM **PRACTICE PACKET 1**



High School | 2022-23

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* | William Shakespeare's *Sonnets*

Thornton Wilder's *Our Town: A Play in Three Acts*



LIT CRIT PRACTICE PACKET 1

2022-2023

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Lit Crit Practice Packets are written by **Jennifer Bussey** and her team of writers. Bussey is a freelance educational writer specializing in literature with almost 25 years' experience and has authored Hexco's Lit Crit products since 1999. She has a B.A. in English Literature and an M.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies. Her team consists of **Luke Hardt, Lisa Holmes, and Joshua Prybylski**. Hardt is a retired Professor of Theater with over 30 years' experience teaching at the college level, including every aspect of drama from understanding plays to performing them. He has directed more than 85 plays in his career. Holmes is an educational writer with over 20 years' experience as a high school English teacher, exploring texts across genres and literary periods with numerous students. In addition, she is an experienced writer of book abstracts, lessons, and tests. Przybylski has over 10 years' experience as a teacher--both in person and online--and as a writer and researcher. His experience with high school students spans an impressive range of abilities, interests, and cultural backgrounds, and his expert grasp of literature make him uniquely skilled in opening up literary texts to students.

We are a small company that listens! If you have any questions or if there is an area that you would like fully explored, let us hear from you. We hope you enjoy this product and stay in contact with us throughout your academic journey.

~ President Hexco Inc., Linda Tarrant

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UIL LIT CRIT PRACTICE PACKET 1

2022-2023



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2022-23 Reading List

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For official UIL Constitution and Contest Rules for LitCrit, please review Section 940 on the document under "Contest Rules" at:
<http://www.uiltexas.org/academics/literary-criticism>

Literary Criticism

Practice Test A

- **Part I. Knowledge of Literary Terms and of Literary History** 30 items (1 pt each)
1. The heroic couplet is characterized by ____ .
 - A. iambic tetrameter
 - B. dactylic tetrameter
 - C. iambic pentameter
 - D. trochaic tetrameter
 - E. trochaic pentameter
 2. The word *happy* is an example of what foot?
 - A. iambic
 - B. dactylic
 - C. trochaic
 - D. spondaic
 - E. anapestic
 3. ____ is the study of meaning, sometimes limited to linguistic meaning.
 - A. Epiphany
 - B. Etymology
 - C. Semantics
 - D. Objectivism
 - E. Hermeneutics
 4. The first clear example of a(n) ____ may be Charles Lumley in John Wain's *Hurry on Down*.
 - A. antihero
 - B. noble savage
 - C. putative author
 - D. stock character
 - E. unreliable narrator
 5. The repetition of initial identical sounds in successive or closely associated syllables is called ____ .
 - A. euphony
 - B. alliteration
 - C. assonance
 - D. consonance
 - E. onomatopoeia
 6. ____ describes a four-line stanza of iambic pentameter with a rhyme scheme of either *abab* or *abcb*.
 - A. quatrain
 - B. ekphrasis
 - C. terza rima
 - D. long measure
 - E. particular meter
 7. An example of a deep image would be one taken from a ____ .
 - A. myth
 - B. dream
 - C. longer work
 - D. scientific inquiry
 - E. natural occurrence
 8. In drama, *irony* refers to knowledge that is ____ .
 - A. partially unfolded
 - B. revealed at the end
 - C. kept secret by the protagonist
 - D. hidden from some or all of the characters, but known by the audience
 - E. hidden from the audience, but known by some or all of the characters
 9. What is a soliloquy?
 - A. a monologue accompanied by music
 - B. a dialogue performed by a single actor
 - C. a monologue in which a character reveals his/her inner thoughts
 - D. a monologue in which a character switches from blank verse to prose
 - E. a dialogue in which the actors comment to the audience
 10. Since the 20th century, tombeau has come to describe a(n) ____ work (music or literary) by one artist for another.
 - A. critical
 - B. satirical
 - C. memorial
 - D. imitation
 - E. congratulatory

28. A mark or design on a piece of paper to indicate its manufacturer is known as a(n) _____.
 A. emblem
 B. imprint
 C. watermark
 D. logo
 E. seal
29. This author wrote *Neon Vernacular*, which won the 1994 Pulitzer Prize for poetry.
 A. Yusuf Komunyakaa
 B. Philip Levine
 C. Mona Van Duyn
 D. Sylvia Plath
 E. Mark Strand
30. This term from Aristotle's *h* refers to a release or purging of negative emotions at the climax of a tragedy.
 A. Climax
 B. Revelation
 C. Catharsis
 D. Release
 E. Hamartia
31. Walton's comment that he wants a friend who could either "approve or amend" his plans highlights what failing of Victor's?
 A. his ambition
 B. his irresponsibility
 C. his shallowness
 D. his shortsightedness
 E. his self-isolation
32. Victor's reaction to M. Krempe most clearly supports which of the novel's motifs?
 A. fate and free will
 B. language and communication
 C. slavery
 D. appearance versus reality
 E. doubling
33. How many years elapse while Victor is away at college?
 A. two
 B. four
 C. six
 D. eight
 E. ten

● **Part II. Reading List** 20 items (2 pts each)

Frankenstein
 By Mary Shelley

31. Walton's assurance that he does not plan to kill an albatross is an allusion to _____.
 A. *Plutarch's Lives*
 B. *Rime of the Ancient Mariner*
 C. Prometheus
 D. "Tintern Abbey"
 E. *Paradise Lost*
32. Victor's description of his father caring for his mother "as a fair exotic is sheltered by the gardener" is an example of _____.
 A. understatement
 B. symbolism
 C. personification
 D. metaphor
 E. simile
33. How does the creature respond when he learns that the De Laceys have decided to move away from their cottage?
 A. He chases the family through the forest.
 B. He burns the cottage down.
 C. He moves into the cottage itself.
 D. He goes into town in broad daylight.
 E. He attacks Felix.
34. Where does Victor go alone in Scotland to create the female creature?
 A. Perth
 B. Cumberland
 C. Edinburgh
 D. the Orkneys
 E. St. Andrew's

62. What does the description of the stranger in the final stanza suggest about the script?
- It isn't always perfect.
 - The stranger and the speaker were following different scripts.
 - The stranger did not know the script.
 - The stranger is a better "actor" and follows the script more easily.
 - Not everyone follows it.

63. What is the overall tone of this poem?
- romantic
 - remorseful
 - sarcastic
 - tired
 - flirtatious

64. Which lines of this poem rhyme?
- all of them
 - none of them
 - the odd-numbered lines
 - the even-numbered lines
 - only the first and last stanzas

65. What is the effect of the use of second person in this poem?
- It puts the reader in the position of the stranger.
 - It creates a sense of connection between the author and the reader.
 - It demonstrates that the author doesn't follow scripts.
 - It shows that the author is ashamed of this behavior and wants to distance themselves from it.
 - It forces the reader to consider their own behavior in social situations.

● **Part IV. Tie-breaker Question**

(Contestants who do not complete this question will be disqualified, even if they are not involved in ties.)

Read the following and write a well-developed essay in which you analyze and explain the author's definition of democracy based on how it is described in this poem.

"For You, O Democracy"

by Walt Whitman

Come, I will make the continent indissoluble,
I will make the most splendid race the sun ever shone upon,
I will make divine magnetic lands,
 With the love of comrades,
 With the life-long love of comrades. 5

I will plant companionship thick as trees along all the rivers of
 America, and along the shores of the great lakes, and all
 over the prairies,
I will make inseparable cities with their arms about each
 other's necks,
 By the love of comrades,
 By the manly love of comrades. 10

For you these from me, O Democracy, to serve you ma femme!
For you, for you I am trilling these songs.

LitCrit Test _____

Contestant ID _____

Part I - Terms and History (1 point each)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____
21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____
26. _____
27. _____
28. _____
29. _____
30. _____

Part II - Reading List (2 points each)

31. _____
32. _____
33. _____
34. _____

35. _____
36. _____
37. _____
38. _____
39. _____
40. _____
41. _____
42. _____
43. _____
44. _____
45. _____
46. _____
47. _____
48. _____
49. _____
50. _____

Part III - Ability (2 points each)

51. _____
52. _____
53. _____
54. _____
55. _____
56. _____
57. _____
58. _____
59. _____
60. _____
61. _____
62. _____
63. _____
64. _____
65. _____

SCORE

_____ Part I
 _____ Part II
 _____ Part III
 _____ Part IV Tie-Breaker
 _____ **TOTAL SCORE**