

English 3201

Quiz on Poetry Terms and Concepts

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Section A – Read the excerpts and provide the correct answers.

18%

*And then I pressed the shell  
Close to my ear.  
And listened well*

*And straightaway, like a bell  
Came low and clear  
The slow, sad murmur of far distant seas.* (From *The Shell*/James Stephens)

1. From the excerpt above, provide the best example of onomatopoeia. 1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Explain why the excerpt above is NOT an example of free verse poetry. 2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The underlined letters indicate that the poet has repeated the same consonant sounds in several words. What is the poetic term for this sound technique? 3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The repetition of the “s” sound creates a pleasing sound. What term describes such a sound (Hint: the opposite of cacophony). 4. \_\_\_\_\_

*When I got up the other morning,  
Jenny had thrown the window shutters wide open  
to the blue horizon. She was wearing her new  
rose-coloured dress that glittered  
like the emerald sea at daybreak. Her hair tumbled down  
over her shoulders like a small  
golden waterfall.*

*Dante was playing  
his harmonica, and one would say his fingers  
dripped with music . . .* (From *The Other Morning*/Nikiphóros Vrettákos)

5. There is a definite feeling of contentment in this poem. What term is used to describe the overall feeling created in a piece of writing? 5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Note the underlined letters in the second line. What poetic sound device is represented here? 6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Provide an example of simile from this excerpt. 7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The form of this poem is unique. Explain. 8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. What is an example of literal imagery from the poem? 9. \_\_\_\_\_

For my children . . .

*Let me die with the memory of their love songs in my ears –  
their laughter, their anger, their tears,  
sighing their full-breath't longings for my love –  
let my die with their love songs in my ears.*

*Let my last breath be immortal sandals for their feet,  
let my lungs give a last gift from my flesh:  
let my throat sing its last sparrow-song for their fruition:  
let my last breath be immortal sandals for their feet.*

(Let My Last Breath be Immortal  
Sandals/Lance Jeffers)

10. This is obviously a poem which expresses the author's innermost thoughts and feelings. What type of poem is this? 10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Provide an example of alliteration from this poem. 11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Provide an example of an auditory image from this poem. 12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Provide an example of a figure of speech from the poem. 13. \_\_\_\_\_

The Goldfish . . .

*Lazily through the clear  
Shallow and deep,  
He oars his chartless way,  
Half-asleep  
The little paradox – so bright – so cold  
Although his flesh seem formed of fire and gold*

*High emperor of his dim  
Bubble-empearled  
Jet-shadowed greenish-shallosed  
Water-world  
Like a live torch, a brand of burning gold,  
He sets the wave afire and still is cold.* (Audrey Alexandra Brown)

14. The poet refers to the goldfish in human terms by referring to it as a “high emperor”. What poetic device is used here? 14. \_\_\_\_\_
15. Illustrate your understanding of a paradox by explaining why, in the poem, the goldfish is referred to as a “little paradox”. 15. \_\_\_\_\_

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16. In the phrase “bubble-empearled”, the poet suggests that the bubbles are pearls. What is the poetic term for this type of comparison? 16. \_\_\_\_\_

*When I am an old woman I shall wear purple  
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me,  
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves  
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.  
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired  
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells . . .* (From *Warning*/ Jenny Joseph)

17. The speaker in this poem is clearly rebellious. What is the literary term which describes the speaker's or poet's attitude? 17. \_\_\_\_\_
18. What word in this excerpt is an example of effective diction? 18. \_\_\_\_\_

**Section B – Multiple Choice. Circle the letter of the correct or BEST answer. 8%**

1. Poets often choose words because of the associations (ideas or feelings) that the word evokes, in addition to its dictionary definition. Which of the following describes this technique?
  - A. Connotation
  - B. Denotation
  - C. Epiphany
  - D. Mytonymy
  
2. *Forgive, O Lord, my little jokes on Thee  
And I'll forgive Thy great big one on me.*  
This short poem represents which of the following?
  - A. Couplet
  - B. Sestet
  - C. Syntax
  - D. Quatrain
  
3. *You seek the best that Nature can confer  
Upon our universe? Then come and see  
That beauty shining like a sun on thee . . .*  
Which of the following describes the rhythm of this poem?
  - A. Analogy
  - B. Rhyme Scheme
  - C. Iambic Pentameter
  - D. Structure
  
4. Which of the following describes a figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms are combined for dramatic effect (eg. “devilish angel”) ?
  - A. Antagonist
  - B. Cliché
  - C. Oxymoron
  - D. Symbol
  
5. *Time, Give me the secret  
that makes you younger*  
In these lines, the speaker addresses an inanimate object. Which of the following is the word for this type of personification?
  - A. Apostrophe
  - B. Assonance
  - C. Juxtaposition
  - D. Hyperbole
  
6. Which of the following refers to the poet making reference to a person, place or event (usually from history or mythology)?
  - A. Allegory
  - B. Allusion
  - C. Euphemism
  - D. Motif

7. Which of the following refers to the way in which the argument of a poem is revealed. For example, the poet may create a comparison or a contrast; may ask and then answer a question, show how good comes from bad, etc.
- A. Exposition
  - B. Meter
  - C. Structure
  - D. Theme
8. Which of the following refers to a piece of writing in which each character or event is a symbol of something else? (For example in the novel *Animal Farm* each character and event represented a character or event from the Russian Revolution.)
- A. Allegory
  - B. Antithesis
  - C. Foil
  - D. Juxtaposition

**Section C – Poetic and Literary Forms**      **Match the description with the correct answer.**  
**Not all possible answers will be used.      9%**

- |          |  |                                   |
|----------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. _____ | A long narrative poem dealing with the actions of legendary men and women or the history of nations, often presented in a grand ceremonious style.                         | A. Italian (Petrarchan) Sonnet    |
| 2. _____ | A lyric poem of fourteen lines consisting of an octave and a sestet.   | B. Epic                           |
| 3. _____ | A narrative poem or song that tells a popular story, often of physical courage or love.  | C. Ode                            |
| 4. _____ | A recurring phrase or number of lines, especially at the ends of stanzas   | D. Satire                         |
| 5. _____ | A stanza of four lines   | E. Elegy                          |
| 6. _____ | A type of lyric poem that expresses sadness for someone who has died: traditionally a solemn meditation on a serious subject.  | F. Parody                         |
| 7. _____ | A literary work in which human vice or flaw is attacked through irony, derision, or wit. The work appears ridiculous on the surface, but has a serious message underneath. | G. Quatrain                       |
| 8. _____ | A lyric poem written in the form of an address to a person or object.  | H. Flash Fiction                  |
| 9. _____ | An imitation of the style of a particular writer, artist, or genre with deliberate exaggeration for comic effect.  | I. Refrain                        |
|          |  | J. English (Shakespearean) Sonnet |
|          |  | K. Fable                          |
|          |  | L. Ballad                         |
|          |  | M. Free verse                     |