Sample Multiple Choice Question Stems

Level 1: Content Questions

1. Which of the following is the primary meaning of the word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as it is

used in the passage?

2. Which of the following best paraphrases lines \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

3. From the context, the reader can infer that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is…

4. The speaker’s view of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ might best be described as…

5. In line \_\_\_\_, “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” refers to…

6. In line \_\_\_\_, “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” is best understood to mean…

7. In lines \_\_\_\_\_\_, the speaker asserts that…

8. From the passage, we can infer that all of the following would be true EXCEPT…

9. The central opposition in the work is between…

10. The speaker views \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as…

11. Throughout the passage \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is addressing…

12. Lines \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ chiefly serve to show that…

13. Which of the following best summarized the main point?

14. Which of the following best defines the phrase…

15. It can be inferred that…

16. What is the function of \_\_\_\_\_\_ in lines \_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

Level 2: Style Questions

1. In lines \_\_\_\_, the speaker makes use of all of the following EXCEPT…

2. The primary rhetorical function of lines \_\_\_\_\_\_ is…

3. The comedy of the passage derives chiefly from…

4. In line \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ most probably refers metaphorically to…

5. In line \_\_\_\_, “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” is a metaphorical way of saying…

6. Grammatically, the word “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” functions as…

7. The most conventional, least idiosyncratic aspect of the work is…

8. In the simile in line \_\_\_\_, “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” is used to stand for…

9. Lines \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are based on which of the following?

10. Which of the following is used most extensively in the passage?

11. Which of the following best describes the diction and style of the passage?

12. The poem is best described as…

13. The imagery of the poem is characterized by…

14. Which of the following best describes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s speech?

15. The style of the passage is best characterized as…

16. The structure of the \_\_\_\_\_\_(number, i.e. third) sentence is best described as…

17. The shift in point of view from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has the effect of…

18. The syntax of the sentence in lines \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ serves to…

19. The pattern of exposition exemplified in the passage is best described as…

20. The type of argument employed by the speaker is best described as…

From amfec.org/auer Level 3: Tone, Theme, Universal Implications

1. The tone of the passage is…

2. The theme of the passage is…

3. One effect of “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” is to emphasize the speaker’s feeling of…

4. The sentiments expressed in the work are closest to those expressed in which of

the following quotations from other poets / writers?

5. Which of the following adjectives best describes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s speech?

6. Lines \_\_\_\_\_ most strongly convey the speaker’s…

7. What does the speaker convey in lines \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

8. The chief effect of the imagery and figures of speech in lines \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is to…

9. The excerpt is chiefly concerned with…

10. What is the author’s attitude toward the subject?

11. In the work the author is asserting that…

12. The speaker assumes that the audience’s attitude will be that of…

13. The theme of the second paragraph involves which of the following?

14. The major purpose of the statement \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is to…

15. The author believes that we should…