**AP Poetry Multiple Choice: Women Poets**

**“Sonnet”**

*Questions 1–10. Read the following poem carefully before you choose your*

*answers.*

I am in need of music that would flow

Over my fretful, feeling finger-tips,

Over my bitter-tainted, trembling lips,

With melody, deep, clear, and liquid-slow.

Oh, for the healing swaying, old and low,

Of some song sung to rest the tired dead,

A song to fall like water on my head,

And over quivering limbs, dream flushed to glow!

There is a magic made by melody:

A spell of rest, and quiet breath, and cool

Heart, that sinks through fading colors deep

To the subaqueous stillness of the sea,

And floats forever in a moon-green pool,

Held in the arms of rhythm and of sleep.

—Elizabeth Bishop

1. The poem follows which of the following

structures:

(A) an Italian sonnet

(B) an English sonnet

(C) a villanelle

(D) a sestina

(E) Spenserian stanza

2. In lines 1–4 the speaker establishes her

current problem, namely

(A) the loss of a loved one

(B) the need for revitalization

(C) the want of a lover

(D) the desire for peace and composure

(E) the passing of time and lovers

3. Which of the following literary devices is

used most in the passage?

(A) alliteration

(B) hyperbole

(C) personification

(D) simile

(E) apostrophe

4. The images in lines 5–8 deal primarily with

(A) destruction

(B) resurrection

(C) romanticism

(D) restoration

(E) deception

5. The sound devices used in “some song sung”

(line 6) most clearly contrast with

(A) “fretful finger tips” (line 2)

(B) “bitter-tainted, trembling lips” (line 3)

(C) “melody, deep, clear, and liquid slow”

(line 4)

(D) “the tired dead” (line 6)

(E) “the magic made by melody” (line 9)

6. Line 9 marks a shift in mood from

(A) tense to hopeful

(B) pessimistic to confident

(C) lonely to tender

(D) despondent to serene

(E) serious to lighthearted

7. The diction used in the poem can best be

described as

(A) elevated and formal

(B) ordinary and colloquial

(C) sensuous and emotional

(D) informal and idiomatic

(E) esoteric and detached

8. The poem contains

I. First person narration

II. A clear rhyme scheme and metrical pattern

III. A shift or turning point

(A) I only

(B) II only

(C) I and II only

(D) II and III only

(E) I, II, and III

9. Which of the following best describes the

tone of the passage?

(A) reserved

(B) whimsical

(C) reverential

(D) complimentary

(E) dejected

10. The primary purpose of the poem is

(A) philosophical musing

(B) social critique

(C) artistic statement

(D) inspired confession

(E) moral admonishment

Mirror  
  
I am silver and exact. I have no preconceptions.  
What ever you see I swallow immediately  
Just as it is, unmisted by love or dislike.  
I am not cruel, only truthful---  
The eye of a little god, four-cornered.  
Most of the time I meditate on the opposite wall.  
It is pink, with speckles. I have looked at it so long  
I think it is a part of my heart. But it flickers.  
Faces and darkness separate us over and over.  
Now I am a lake. A woman bends over me,  
Searching my reaches for what she really is.  
Then she turns to those liars, the candles or the moon.  
I see her back, and reflect it faithfully.  
I am important to her. She comes and goes.  
Each morning it is her face that replaces the darkness.  
In me she has drowned a young girl, and in me an old woman  
Rises toward her day after day, like a terrible fish

She rewards me with tears and an agitation of hands.

- Sylvia Plath

1. This poem is about

(A) vanity of the young

(B) the search for the true self

(C) the quest for reality

(D) Illusions and how we cope with them

(E) aging and death

2. the line “Now I am a lake. A woman bends over me” (1,10) is an example of

(A) Paradox

(B) Metonomy

(C) hyperbole

(D) allusion

(E) personification

3. Line 5 “The eye of a little god, four-cornered,” suggest that the godlike nature of the mirror is

(A) Flawed

(B) exact

(C) infallible

(D) jealous

(E) prudent

4. Of the following word pairs, which most accurately describes the woman in the poem?

(A) Serene and nostalgic

(B) Impartial and candid

(C) Detached yet emotional

(D) Anguished and agitated

*(E)Fanciful and lugubrious*

5. All of the following can be seen as a reason for the speaker of the poem to be considered honest EXCEPT:

(A) the speaker is “not cruel, only truthful.”

(B) the speaker is “silver and exact.”

(C) the speaker is the “candles or the moon.”

(D) the speaker has “no preconceptions”

(E) the speaker “see(s) her back, “ and “reflects I “faithfully”

6. A shift occurs in the poem when  
(A) the woman sees the “terrible fish.”

(B) the speaker becomes a lake

(C) the mirror meditates “on the opposite wall”

(D) the woman cries and becomes agitated

(E) the mirror says it is “not cruel, only truthful.”

7. The concluding two lines of the poem primarily illustrate the woman’s

(A) fear that she has lost her beauty

(B) relief that she has conquered her fears

(C) Obsession with the mirror

(D) anguish over her daughter’s death

(E) fear of her aged, unfulfilled self.

8. The word ***exac****t* as it is used in line 1 means:

(A) cold

(B) precise

(C) uncaring

(D) self-absorbed

(E) empowered

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