

World Literature I Unit Multiple-Choice Quizzes

I. Ancient Greece – Homer's *The Odyssey*

1. In Book I, the goddess Athena appears to Telemachus and tells him to:
 - a) kill the suitors
 - b) comfort his mother
 - c) warn the suitors to desist
 - d) take back his rightful throne
2. Penelope has been putting off the suitors for years by telling them:
 - a) Odysseus is alive and will return and punish them all
 - b) she will marry one after she finishes weaving a shroud for Odysseus
 - c) she will marry one after she finishes weaving a shroud for Odysseus's father
 - d) she will marry one of them after her son reaches maturity
3. In Book II, Telemachus sneaks away from Ithaca to:
 - a) visit a friendly city and escape the suitors
 - b) seek information about his father
 - c) break away from his mother and her worries about him
 - d) rescue his father from captivity
4. Odysseus has been away from home for:
 - a) ten years
 - b) fifteen years
 - c) twenty years
 - d) twenty-five years
5. Telemachus goes to look for news of Odysseus because:
 - a) he is worried about his father
 - b) Athena encourages him
 - c) Penelope requests it
 - d) his tutor thinks he needs a focus to his life
6. King Nestor tells Telemachus that:
 - a) Odysseus is dead
 - b) Agamemnon and Menelaus were killed
 - c) some Trojans escaped and Odysseus followed after to kill them
 - d) he must seek further information from Menelaus
7. In Book IV, Telemachus learns that Odysseus was taken by:
 - a) Dido
 - b) Calypso
 - c) Polyphemos
 - d) Nausicaa
8. Odysseus is eventually washed up on shore and found by:

- a) Calypso
- b) Penelope
- c) Nausicaa
- d) a siren

9. Odysseus nearly gets himself and his remaining men killed when he shouts what name to Polyphemus as they are making their escape from the island?

- a) "Quick-witted Odysseus"
- b) "Odysseus, Lord of Ithaca"
- c) "Nobody"
- d) "Royal Son of Laertes"

10. Circe turns some of Odysseus's men into:

- a) cows
- b) goats
- c) sheep
- d) pigs

11. Odysseus descends to the underworld and learns:

- a) he needs his father's advice
- b) his mother had died in his absence
- c) he has three more tasks before he can return home
- d) the suitors are importuning Penelope

12. When Odysseus returns home to the palace, he is recognized by:

- a) his son and Penelope
- b) the frightened suitors
- c) his old dog Argus
- d) no one

13. The test Penelope devises to pick a suitor is:

- a) stringing Odysseus's bow
- b) a riddle only Odysseus would know
- c) a drinking game
- d) a wrestling contest

14. Penelope has one further test for Odysseus to verify his identity. She asks him to:

- a) take revenge on the suitors who ravaged their household
- b) tells a story that only the two of them would know
- c) move their bed
- d) settle differences peacefully with the families of the suitors

II. The Middle Ages -- *Beowulf*

1. What is the name of Hrothgar's great mead-hall, the setting for the action of the first part of *Beowulf*?
 - A. Halgahall
 - B. Heorot
 - C. Hroragar
 - D. Hapax Legomena
2. At the feast in Heorot, Unferth speaks "contrary words" (line 501) against *Beowulf*. Of what does Unferth accuse *Beowulf*?
 - A. miserliness
 - B. bastardy
 - C. vanity
 - D. cowardice
3. Who does the poet name as Grendel's ancestor?
 - A. Shield Sheafson
 - B. Satan
 - C. Cain
 - D. Abel
4. What weapon does *Beowulf* select to fight Grendel?
 - A. a dagger
 - B. a broadsword
 - C. a spear
 - D. no weapon
5. What trophy does *Beowulf* claim at the end of his battle with Grendel?
 - A. Grendel's arm and hand
 - B. the hinges of the door Grendel ripped
 - C. the golden hasp of a mead-bench thrown by the monster
 - D. Grendel's fang
6. According to *Beowulf*, what is the "best and only bulwark" (line 1389) for a warrior against death?
 - A. faith
 - B. gold
 - C. glory
 - D. love
7. Who is Grendel's avenger?
 - A. Grendel's mother
 - B. Grendel's father
 - C. Grendel's sister
 - D. Unferth
8. What happens to the weapon with which *Beowulf* slays the monster?
 - A. It clatters to the floor, shatters, and shivers into pieces.
 - B. It melts all the way to the hilt because of the monster's blood. ***
 - C. It grows hot as hell, hisses, and dissipates in smoke.
 - D. *Beowulf* tosses the dirtied weapon back into the fiend's armory.

9. At the conclusion of this section of the poem, Hrothgar makes a long speech to Beowulf, in which he promises friendship and other rewards to Beowulf, acknowledges that warrior's valorous deeds, and outlines what he sees as the best attributes of a noble leader. To furnish a contrast, Hrothgar refers at length to which figure, who is the very opposite of a good leader?

- A. Heremod
- B. Ecgwela
- C. Hrothgar himself, in his careless youth
- D. Grendel

10. What sin does Hrothgar caution Beowulf to avoid?

- A. pride
- B. sloth
- C. wrath
- D. lust

11. Why does Beowulf present Hygelac with the treasures he won in Hrothgar's service?

- A. He has few other kinsmen besides Hygelac.
- B. Hygelac is Beowulf's uncle.
- C. neither a nor b
- D. both a and b

12. What is the role of noble women in this warrior society? Complete this sentence: A noble woman is

- A. a "peace-pledge between nations" (line 2017).
- B. one who will "weave peace" (line 1942).
- C. one who distributes mead and wealth in the ring-hall.
- D. all of the above

13. To whom did the treasure in the dragon's barrow originally belong?

- A. the Geats
- B. the Frisians
- C. the Franks
- D. an unnamed people, who had all died out except the last man who buried their treasure

14. What action awakens the dragon?

- A. A jewelled diadem is stolen from the dragon's hoard.
- B. A slave takes a golden cup from the dragon's treasure-heap.
- C. An incantation is uttered by a wise magician.
- D. The dragon wakes because he is hungry.

15. How many men fight the dragon?

- A. thirteen: Beowulf, eleven companions, and a slave
- B. twelve: Beowulf and eleven hand-picked companions
- C. Beowulf alone
- D. Beowulf and Wiglaf

Source: <http://www.norton.com/college/english/nael9/section/volA/quiz.aspx>

III. The Renaissance -- Shakespeare's *Hamlet*

1. At the beginning of the play, Hamlet is most upset because:
 - a) his father is dead
 - b) Claudius is king
 - c) his father was murdered
 - d) his widowed mother has quickly married his uncle
2. The ghost of Hamlet's father tells him to:
 - a) kill Claudius
 - b) avenge his murder
 - c) move on with his life
 - d) punish Gertrude and Claudius
3. By producing "The Mousetrap," Hamlet hopes to:
 - a) determine if Claudius is guilty of Hamlet Sr.'s murder
 - b) amuse Claudius and Gertrude
 - c) make Claudius think Hamlet has gone mad
 - d) calm Claudius's fears
4. Claudius tells Rosenkranz and Guildenstern he wants them to:
 - a) prove Hamlet is up to something
 - b) lure Hamlet into a trap so Claudius could dispose of him
 - c) amuse Hamlet
 - d) talk Hamlet into going away
5. When Hamlet confronts Gertrude in her room after the performance of "The Mousetrap," he tells her:
 - a) she is complicit in Hamlet Sr.'s death
 - b) Polonius and Claudius are guilty of murder
 - c) she has let her sexuality blind her
 - d) they must kill Claudius
6. The reaction of Claudius to "The Mousetrap" tells Hamlet:
 - a) Gertrude is definitely an accomplice to the murder
 - b) Claudius is involved in a political plot
 - c) Gertrude is innocent
 - d) Claudius is absolutely guilty of Hamlet Sr.'s murder
7. Polonius warns Ophelia to stay away from Hamlet because:
 - a) Hamlet is mad
 - b) Hamlet should be king
 - c) their social positions are too far apart
 - d) Polonius has another husband in mind for her
8. Ophelia commits suicide because:
 - a) her brother has been cruel to her and then deserted her
 - b) Hamlet rejected her
 - c) she felt used and deceived by Polonius and Hamlet
 - d) she could not bear one more sorrow

9. In the graveyard scene, when Hamlet learns that the funeral is for Ophelia, he:
- a) tries to kill Claudius whom he blames
 - b) hides and plots his revenge
 - c) shows himself and professes his profound love for Ophelia
 - d) challenges Laertes to a duel
10. Fortinbras requests that his army cross Denmark on its way to Poland as:
- a) a short route
 - b) an unexpected way to enter Poland
 - c) a way to help Hamlet become the rightful king
 - d) a ruse to invade Denmark
11. Claudius convinces Laertes to kill Hamlet by:
- a) making him believe Hamlet killed Polonius
 - b) asking for help to protect his throne
 - c) convincing him Hamlet is helping Fortinbras
 - d) making him believe Hamlet has compromised Ophelia
12. When Laertes challenges Hamlet to a duel, Hamlet takes it as:
- a) a pleasant diversion
 - b) a mortal threat
 - c) a way to further test Claudius
 - d) a way to expose Claudius's guilt
13. Hamlet switched the letter Claudius gave Rosenkranz and Guildenstern because he:
- a) wanted to escape
 - b) needed to slip away and return to Denmark to kill Claudius
 - c) no longer considered them friends
 - d) believed they were guilty of leading him to his death
14. Hamlet finally kills Claudius because:
- a) the duel gave him the nerve
 - b) he wants to be king as is his right
 - c) he wants to help Fortinbras
 - d) Gertrude drank from the poison cup
15. While Hamlet is dying, Horatio:
- a) promises to avenge his death
 - b) wants to follow Hamlet in death
 - c) hopes Hamlet will tell him the reason for the deaths
 - d) realizes Fortinbras will invade the country