

1999 AP Lit Exam

Pre-20th Poetry
12.25 = 13 mins

Section I

Questions 14-25. Read the following poem carefully before you choose your answers.

1 I dreaded that first Robin so,
2 But He is mastered, now,
3 I'm some accustomed to Him grown,
4 He hurts a little, though—
5 I thought if I could only live
6 Till that first Shout got by—
7 Not all Pianos in the Woods
8 Had power to mangle me—
9 I dared not meet the Daffodil
10 For fear their Yellow Gown
11 Would pierce me with a fashion
12 So foreign to my own—
13 I wished the Grass would hurry—
14 So—when 'twas time to see—
15 He'd be so tall, the tallest one
16 Could stretch—to look at me—
17 I could not bear the Bees should come,
18 I wished they'd stay away
19 In those dim countries where they go,
20 What word had they, for me?
21 They're here, though; not a creature failed—
22 No Blossom stayed away
23 In gentle deference to me—
24 The Queen of Calvary—
25 Each one salutes me, as he goes,
26 And I, my childish Plumes
27 Lift, in bereaved acknowledgment
28 Of their unthinking Drums—

—Emily Dickinson
(c. 1862)

Reprinted by permission of the publishers and the Trustees of Amherst College from *The Poems of Emily Dickinson*, Thomas H. Johnson, ed., Cambridge, Mass.: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. Copyright © 1951, 1955, 1969, 1983 by the President and Fellows of Harvard College.

over-
negative

Key words: dreaded
dared not
could not bear

14. The central opposition in the poem is between
(A) the birds and the flowers
(B) God and nature
(C) childhood and adulthood
(D) the speaker and spring
(E) reason and imagination
77%

15. The speaker views the coming of the robin, the daffodils, and the bees as
(A) welcome arrivals
(B) inexplicable events
(C) painful experiences
(D) unexpected diversions
(E) inspiring occurrences
87%

16. The "first Shout" (line 6) most probably refers to
(A) a cry made by the speaker
(B) the robin's song
(C) a baby's first cry
(D) the dawn of a new day
(E) the sprouting of a flower
72%

17. In line 7, "Pianos" most probably refers metaphorically to
(A) birds
(B) flowers
(C) bees
(D) poetry
(E) musical instruments
86%

18. For the speaker, the robin and the daffodils have which of the following in common?
(A) An aura of the divine
(B) The power to intoxicate
(C) The power to wound
(D) A clear and useful purpose
(E) A sense of timeliness and peace
86%

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

Unauthorized copying or reuse of any part of this page is illegal.

19. One effect of "They're here, though" (line 21) is to emphasize the speaker's feeling of
(A) hopefulness
(B) contentment
(C) justification
(D) guilt
(E) powerlessness
97%

20. In line 21, "failed" is best understood to mean
(A) died
(B) faded
(C) sickened
(D) was unhappy
(E) was absent
94%

21. Grammatically the word "Plumes" (line 26) functions as
(A) the direct object of "goes" (line 25)
(B) an appositive for "I" (line 26)
(C) the subject of "Lift" (line 27)
(D) the direct object of "Lift" (line 27)
(E) the indirect object of "Lift" (line 27)
85%

22. The speaker perceives the coming of spring chiefly in terms of
(A) sounds and colors
(B) odors and tastes
(C) shapes and textures
(D) music and poetry
(E) love and youth
70%

23. Which of the following is a subject treated in the poem?
(A) The relationship between nature and human beings
(B) Belief in the power of religion
(C) The innocence of childhood
(D) The power of the imagination to provide comfort
(E) Fear of death
53%

24. The most conventional, least idiosyncratic aspect of the poem is its
(A) tone
(B) diction
(C) rhymes
(D) capitalization
(E) meter
35%

25. The sentiment expressed in the poem are closest to those expressed in which of the following quotations from other poets?
(A) "The poetry of earth is never dead" (John Keats)
(B) "April is the cruellest month" (T. S. Eliot)
(C) "Fair daffodils, we weep to see you haste away so soon" (Robert Herrick)
(D) "And then my heart with pleasure fills/And dances with the daffodils" (William Wordsworth)
(E) "Nothing is so beautiful as spring—/When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush" (Gerard Manley Hopkins)
77%

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

Unauthorized copying or reuse of any part of this page is illegal.