

Moping Melancholy Mad: An Introduction to Poetry
Vocabulary Quiz #1—Lessons 1-5

1. Our family reunions seem to always be one of a _____ occasion. The merriment and laughter are abundant everywhere.
(A) sonorous
(B) jocund
(C) languid
(D) melancholy
(E) tempestuous
2. How would you describe an “elegy”?
(A) patriotic speech
(B) boring lecture
(C) mournful poem
(D) difficult riddle
(E) silly jingle
3. The speaker’s lecture failed to _____ the audience; in fact, I noticed how many listeners soon lost interest as the _____ monotonous caused a great drowsiness.
(A) circumscribe . . . nonchalant
(B) palpitate . . . melancholy
(C) usurp . . . pied
(D) pique . . . runic
(E) enthrall . . . languid
4. The _____ ringing of the church bells caused the villagers to stop their various activities in order to listen to the loud, sweet tones.
(A) sonorous
(B) jocund
(C) languid
(D) melancholy
(E) tempestuous
5. The cold, rainy day caused a _____ atmosphere among us children in the house; but as soon as mother put the delicious _____ on the table, the gloom was replaced with laughter and good cheer.
(A) tempestuous . . . desideratum
(B) emblematical . . . tintinnabulation
(C) melancholy . . . victuals
(D) pied . . . nonchalance
(E) jocund . . . denouement

OVER

6. CIRCUMSCRIPTION : LIMITATION ::

- (A) faith : betrayal
- (B) captain : ship
- (C) fish : water
- (D) monody : poem
- (E) joke : corruption

7. DESIDERATUM : NECESSITY ::

- (A) city hall : church
- (B) refusal : acceptance
- (C) might : right
- (D) desert : wasteland
- (E) fog : horn

8. NONCHALANCE : WORRY ::

- (A) corn : cob
- (B) team : player
- (C) garden : shovel
- (D) piano : keys
- (E) strength : weakness

9. USURP : SEIZE ::

- (A) rip : mend
- (B) laugh : cry
- (C) resurrect : revive
- (D) charge : retreat
- (E) deceive : repeat

10. PIED : PLAIN ::

- (A) ugly : beautiful
- (B) mournful : sad
- (C) clanging : ringing
- (D) irregular : uncommon
- (E) irritable : fussy

11. After the climax of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the denouement of the play has the various couples reconciling with one another, both in the physical and spiritual worlds.

The word "denouement" means

- (A) commencement.
- (B) performance.
- (C) story.
- (D) unraveling.
- (E) stage directions.

12. In Greek mythology, Diana was well-known for her tempestuous disposition, because she became angry over trifles.

The word "tempestuous" means most nearly in this sentence

- (A) just.
- (B) cautious.
- (C) logical.
- (D) violent.
- (E) timely.

13. Oliver Goldsmith wrote a famous poem found in his novel, *The Vicar of Wakefield*, that relates the outcome of a pique between a dog and a man.

The word "pique" means

- (A) irritation.
- (B) discussion.
- (C) conference.
- (D) reluctance.
- (E) game.

Being named after his father, whom was an ironmonger, John

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Donne was born in 1572. Since his family was Catholic, Donne was educated early by Jesuits. Even though he studied at Oxford University for three years and later at Cambridge for another three, he did not get a degree, because as a Catholic he refused to

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take the Oath of Supremacy, which recognized the king of England as supreme in England, both in temporal and matters of a spiritual nature. A couple of events helped shape the

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life of Donne. One of the turning points were related to the death

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of Donne's brother Henry, who died in prison, having been convicted for harboring an outlawed Catholic priest. Due to the death of his brother, Donne questioned his Catholic faith and wrote his first literary work, *Satires*. Later, his Songs and Sonnets, a collection of love poems.

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After having squandered an inheritance on careless living, Donne participated in the raid on Cadiz in France and joined an expedition to the Azores. Later, Donne had the good fortune to become the private secretary to Sir Thomas Egerton, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. However, having fallen in love with Anne More, Donne secretly married the young lady, an action which ruined his promising career. Miss More's father became so angry that he had Donne arrested and put in prison for many weeks, resulting in the termination of Donnes employment.

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Reportedly, Donne expressed his devotion to his new wife by writing on the prison wall, "John Donne, Anne Donne, Undone." Donne finally broke with Catholicism with him publishing

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Pseudo-Martyr in 1611 and *Ignatius his Conclave*. After reading these works himself, King James offered Donne a position in the Anglican church, which he accepted with reluctance. Nevertheless, Donne quickly became one of the most popular preachers in his time because of his wit, learning, and interesting style.

14. A. NO CHANGE
B. who's
C. whose
D. who

15. A. NO CHANGE
B. Donne's
C. Donne
D. him

16. A. NO CHANGE
B. matters of the Spirit.
C. spirtual nature.
D. spiritual matters.

17. A. NO CHANGE
B. was related
C. used to relate
D. relating

18. A. NO CHANGE
B. fragment
C. comma splice
D. fused sentence

19. A. NO CHANGE
B. Donne
C. Donne's
D. Donnes'

20. A. NO CHANGE
B. a
C. the
D. his

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Vocabulary Quiz #2—Lessons 6–9

1. When I accidentally hit Mr. Johnson in the head with a stray snowball, my neighbor was less than _____ when I saw him later at the hardware store.
 - (A) gaunt
 - (B) plutonian
 - (C) vestal
 - (D) cordial
 - (E) runic

2. How would you describe a “wold”?
 - (A) rolling plain
 - (B) large ball
 - (C) secret admirer
 - (D) shallow pond
 - (E) court jester

3. It seemed as if the evil leader had called upon _____ powers to help him strip the people of the last remaining liberties in order that his _____ would be absolute.
 - (A) gaunt . . . wight
 - (B) plutonian . . . puissance
 - (C) vestal . . . obeisance
 - (D) cordial . . . palfrey
 - (E) runic . . . eddy

4. The show of _____ to any nobleman or governmental official has never been a part of the American tradition.
 - (A) wight
 - (B) dirge
 - (C) obeisance
 - (D) palfrey
 - (E) eddy

5. The way the gentleman _____ his ale, one wonders why such a _____ man does not look more like a fat bear rather than a thin scarecrow.
 - (A) usurps . . . vestal
 - (B) quaffs . . . gaunt
 - (C) writhes . . . plutonian
 - (D) wields . . . cordial
 - (E) surceases . . . runic

OVER

6. HOSTLER : HORSES ::

- (A) preacher : hymns
- (B) robber : thieves
- (C) nurse : patients
- (D) manager : instructions
- (E) actor : props

7. NEPENTHE : PAIN ::

- (A) pit : ditch
- (B) father : son
- (C) country : politics
- (D) treaty : war
- (E) lighthouse : ship

8. DIRGE : FUNERAL ::

- (A) protest : gathering
- (B) paean : celebration
- (C) sonnet : poem
- (D) violin : guitar
- (E) hound : raccoon

9. VESTAL : UNCLEAN ::

- (A) silly : ridiculous
- (B) slow : sluggish
- (C) recurring : repetitive
- (D) discharged : executed
- (E) informed : ignorant

10. WRITHE : TWIST ::

- (A) uphold : neglect
- (B) increase : add
- (C) change : maintain
- (D) locate : lose
- (E) denounce : glorify

11. We watched the small leaf become trapped in the eddy and then disappear below the surface of the river.

The word “eddy” means

- (A) wave.
- (B) rock.
- (C) limb.
- (D) whirlpool.
- (E) rapids.

12. The knight was frantic, because a thief had stolen his baldric and greaves.

The words “baldric” and “greaves” mean in this sentence

- (A) helmet and sword.
- (B) breastplate and dagger.
- (C) belt and boots.
- (D) spear and gloves.
- (E) horse and arrows.

13. The knight set his fair lady upon the palfrey early in the morning so that she could arrive back to the castle before dark.

The word “palfrey” means

- (A) journey.
- (B) wagon.
- (C) caravan.
- (D) horse.
- (E) armed escort.

By the time she was ten years old, Elizabeth Barrett Browning had read from Shakespeare's plays, Popes translations of Iliad and

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- 14. A. NO CHANGE
- B. translations by Pope
- C. Pope's translations
- D. Popes' translations

Odyssey, several portions of Milton's *Paradise Lost*, and the histories of England, Greece, and Rome. Being self-taught in Greek, Latin, and Italian, she read during her teenage years the principal Greek and

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- A. NO CHANGE
- 15. B. having read
- C. reading
- D. Elizabeth read

Latin authors and Dante's *Inferno* in the original languages. In addition to this, Elizabeth learned sufficient Hebrew to read the Old Testament in its entirety.

Her interest in the classics and philosophy were balanced by her

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- A. NO CHANGE
- 16. B. should have balanced
- C. was balanced
- D. used to balance

Methodist upbringing, which Elizabeth described as "not the deep persuasion of the mild Christian but the wild visions of an enthusiast." The Barretts attended worship services at a nearby chapel, and Elizabeth's father was active in Bible and missionary societies.

In 1838, *The Seraphim and Other Poems* appeared, being the first volume of mature poetry by Elizabeth. However, shortly after her beginning success, her health forced Elizabeth to move to the coast of Devonshire with her brother Edward accompanying her, his accidental drowning later that year affected her for months. Elizabeth

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- 17. A. NO CHANGE
- B. fragment
- C. comma splice
- D. misplaced modifier

never fully recovered from the loss of her favorite brother.

After returning home to Wimpole Street, only one or two persons

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- 18. A. NO CHANGE
- B. fragment
- C. comma splice
- D. misplaced modifier

other than her immediate family were permitted to see Elizabeth,

19

- 19. A. NO CHANGE
- B. was
- C. has
- D. have

who had now become an invalid and a recluse. Her 1844 *Poems* made Elizabeth one of the most popular writers in Great Britain and prompted Robert Browning to write her, telling her how much her poems meant to him. In 1845, Browning was permitted to see the recluse poet, and thus began one of the most famous courtships in

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- 20. A. NO CHANGE
- B. reclusive poetess
- C. recluse/poet
- D. poet recluse

history.