

La Vita Nuova
Vocabulary Quiz

1. _____ After the death of Beatrice, Dante _____ his personal loss with a lot of tears, mourning the death of his lady for many months.
(A) averred
(B) lamented
(C) purported
(D) vouchsafed
(E) waxed

2. _____ In *La Vita Nuova*, Dante did not include a letter written in Latin, because he wanted his work about Beatrice to be written entirely in the _____ language, the common language being Italian.
(A) abject
(B) amorous
(C) dubious
(D) pensive
(E) vulgar

3. _____ During his _____ and quiet moments, Dante would ponder upon the _____ that he received from Beatrice, who gave him such happiness.
(A) vulgar . . . verity
(B) pensive . . . beatitude
(C) dubious . . . pallor
(D) amorous . . . ruth
(E) abject . . . compass

4. _____ During his sickness, Dante alarmed those caring for him with his rapid change in color, his _____ appearing as though he were dead.
(A) verity
(B) beatitude
(C) pallor
(D) ruth
(E) compass

5. _____ Dante often received strange visions, the _____ of such visions being mysteries until Love would explain the meanings, making the visions _____ and unquestionable to the mind of the young poet.
(A) beatitude . . . amorous
(B) compass . . . dolorous
(C) pallor . . . dubious
(D) purport . . . infallible
(E) rubric . . . vulgar

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

6. _____
In order to keep his love for Beatrice a secret,
A
Dante were content to allow others to think his
B C
affections were actually intended for another
D
girl. No error.
E

7. _____
Whenever Beatrice greeted Dante, the young
A
man felt a divine force always forcing him to
B
pardon and forgive anyone whom may have
C D
injured him. No error.
E

8. _____
On one occasion, Dante found himself in an
A B
embarrassing situation when he was not able to
C
do nothing but stare at Beatrice. No error.
D E

9. _____
Finding himself unable to control his emotions.
A
Dante would resort to putting his thoughts in
B C
verse, allowing his poetry to help his thoughts
D
and feelings. No error.
E

10. _____
After walking along a stream, he was inspired
A B
to write another poem about Beatrice, but
thought it to be unseemly unless he spoke to
C
other ladies, who would be his audience.
D
No error.
E

11. _____ Dante was so filled with
dolorous imaginations that these griefs
became outwardly manifested in his
altered countenance.
The word “dolorous” means
(A) enamored.
(B) sorrowful.
(C) doubtful.
(D) certain.
(E) prayerful.

12. _____ While observing many pensive
pilgrims along the road, Dante felt the
travelers needed to know about the
sadness of the city due to the death of
Beatrice.
The word “pensive” means most nearly
in this sentence
(A) mourning.
(B) joyful.
(C) melancholy.
(D) thoughtful.
(E) festive.

13. _____ When he thought about his
Beatrice having to face death one day,
Dante stated his spirit waxed sorrowful.
The word “waxed” means
(A) grew.
(B) revived.
(C) failed.
(D) declared.
(E) condescended.

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In his *La Vita Nuova*, Dante anticipates his critics who would object to him speaking of Love as though Love is a tangible and visible thing.

14

- 14. A. NO CHANGE
- B. he's speaking
- C. him talking
- D. his speaking

The critics objection centers on precision in writing, but Dante defends

15

his “imprecision” by appealing to the common use of metaphors and rhetorical language. Indeed, Dante sees Love not only as a spiritual essence. But as a bodily substance also. To Dante, his visions were real

16

- 15. A. NO CHANGE
- B. critic objections
- C. critics' objection
- D. critic's objections

enough. In fact, when he speaks about Love, he offers some reasons

17

- 16. A. NO CHANGE
- B. run-on sentence
- C. fragment
- D. misplaced modifier

why Love is tangible and even human. First, Dante sees Love coming towards him; thus, since having locomotion, Love has a corporeal nature. Second, Dante says Love smiles at him, and third, Love speaks to him. According to Dante, these abilities are faculties which appear proper unto common ordinary human beings. However, Dante even

18

- 17. A. NO CHANGE
- B. his
- C. him
- D. Dante

points to the ancient Greek and Roman poets whom give human

19

- 18. A. NO CHANGE
- B. common-ordinary
- C. common, ordinary
- D. common; ordinary

qualities to the pagan gods and other inanimate things, such as the winds. If the ancients can use metaphors and rhetorical language, then he does see why he can't either.

20

- 19. A. NO CHANGE
- B. whom gave
- C. who give
- D. give

- 20. A. NO CHANGE
- B. cannot
- C. can not
- D. couldn't