

“The Bridge” by Leopold Staff

“The Old Stoic” by Emily Brontë

“I Am Not One of Those Who Left the Land” by Anna Akhmatova

“Speech During the Invasion of Constantinople” by Empress Theodora

Selection Test

Critical Reading

In the blank, write the letter of the one best answer.

- _____ 1. In Brontë’s “The Old Stoic,” the speaker’s most important value is _____.
- prayer
 - liberty
 - love
 - art
- _____ 2. In “The Old Stoic,” when Brontë seeks a “chainless soul,” she means
- she wishes to find someone her equal.
 - she wishes to be free of the cares of money.
 - she wishes to be free from her family.
 - she wishes her thoughts to be unrestricted.
- _____ 3. “The Old Stoic” seems dramatic because
- the speaker has experienced considerable personal stress.
 - the audience will object to its themes.
 - its tone and its message are self-reliant.
 - a stoic makes emotional statements.
- _____ 4. The word that best characterizes Brontë’s perspective in “The Old Stoic” is _____.
- loneliness
 - independence
 - hostility
 - isolation
- _____ 5. In “The Bridge,” by Leopold Staff, the speaker doesn’t believe he has the ability to cross the bridge
- without help.
 - until he crosses.
 - because the bridge is too fragile.
 - before or after he crosses.
- _____ 6. When the speaker in “The Bridge” says he walked “delicately as a butterfly/And heavily as an elephant” he is describing
- his hope and determination.
 - his caution and anxiety.
 - his body and his mind.
 - his past and the present.
- _____ 7. The setting of “The Bridge” refers to
- moving into the future.
 - a bridge destroyed in World War II.
 - a formidable challenge.
 - the power of memory.

- ___ 8. In "The Bridge," the speaker suggests his success in crossing is
- hard to explain.
 - a result of courage.
 - certain from the first.
 - a miracle.
- ___ 9. In "Speech During the Invasion of Constantinople," Theodora rises to speak because
- the rebellion has failed.
 - Justinian is about to abandon his empire.
 - the emperor has been killed by Hypatius.
 - she has been asked to do so by advisors.
- ___ 10. Theodora's opinion in "Speech During the Invasion of Constantinople" is that
- women should speak in council during grave situations.
 - those who are in extreme danger should follow conventional behavior.
 - the right course is to pursue safety.
 - it is better to die as a ruler than live as a fugitive.
- ___ 11. In "Speech During the Invasion of Constantinople," Theodora is motivated by
- her royal pride.
 - her love for her husband.
 - her contempt for the rebels.
 - her disgust with the advisors.
- ___ 12. What is the dramatic situation of "I Am Not One of Those Who Left the Land" by Anna Akhmatova?
- War has broken out.
 - Her homeland has been occupied by foreigners.
 - Her family and friends have all left their homeland.
 - Her village is under attack.
- ___ 13. In "I Am Not One of Those Who Left the Land," Akhmatova writes "their flattery leaves me cold." To whom is she referring?
- survivors who do not flinch
 - enemies who show mercy
 - absent ones who praise her work
 - people who have no tears
- ___ 14. In "I Am Not One of Those Who Left the Land," what is Akhmatova's attitude toward those who left?
- contempt
 - pity
 - apathy
 - vindictiveness
- ___ 15. Why are the survivors "people without tears" at the end of "I Am Not One of Those Who Left the Land"?
- They have no reason to regret their conduct.
 - Their sufferings have destroyed their emotions.
 - They have cared for nothing but survival.
 - They will eventually seek vengeance.

Vocabulary and Grammar

- ___ 16. The word *implore* means _____.
a. plead
b. hope
c. expect
d. discover
- ___ 17. Choose the sentence in which the adjective clause is italicized.
a. Anna Akhmatova, *who survived the most tumultuous events of modern times*, published her first poetry at the age of seventeen.
b. The Brontë sisters, who grew up in Yorkshire England, *in a landscape of bleak windswept hills*, were all successful novelists.
c. The present occasion is too serious *to allow me to follow the convention* that a woman should not speak in a man's council.
d. *The speaker did not think he could cross the bridge*, which was plaited from fragile reeds.
- ___ 18. The word *timorous* means _____.
a. insinuating
b. timid
c. devious
d. ambitious
- ___ 19. What does the word root *-dom-* mean?
a. to help
b. to forget
c. to explore
d. to rule
- ___ 20. Which word is modified by the adjective clause in the following sentence?
Empress Theodora delivered a brief speech that convinced her husband to defend their palace in Constantinople, rather than try to escape.
a. Empress Theodora
b. speech
c. husband
d. palace

Essay Questions

21. Choose one of the selections and write an essay that explains the choice the author is making and the values he or she is using to make that decision. Use examples from the selection you choose to support your ideas.
22. Write an essay comparing and contrasting Brontë's and Staff's ideas of courage as expressed in "The Old Stoic" and "The Bridge." Use specific examples from the two poems to support your ideas.
23. These selections consider choices made in dramatic situations. Write an essay that explains why dramatic situations are the basis of many works of art. Use examples from the selections to illustrate your points.