

Directions: This test consists of selections from literary works and questions on their content, form, and style. After each passage or poem, choose the best answer to each question. Now test your skill on this passage.

“Try and make a clever woman of her, Lavinia; I should like her to be a clever woman.”

Line Mrs. Penniman, at this, looked thoughtful a mo-
5 ment. “My dear Austin,” she then inquired, “do you think it is better to be clever than to be good?”

“Good for what?” asked the Doctor. “You are good for nothing unless you are clever.”

10 From this assertion Mrs. Penniman saw no reason to dissent; she possibly reflected that her own great use in the world was owing to her aptitude for many things.

“Of course I wish Catherine to be good,” the Doctor said next day; “but she won’t be any the less virtuous for not being a fool. I am not afraid of her
15 being wicked; she will never have the salt of malice in her character. She is ‘as good as good bread,’ as the French say; but six years hence I don’t want to have to compare her to good bread-and-butter.”

20 “Are you afraid she will be insipid? My dear brother, it is I who supply the butter; so you needn’t fear!” said Mrs. Penniman, who had taken in hand the child’s “accomplishments,” overlooking her at the piano, where Catherine displayed a certain talent, and going with her to the dancing-class, where
25 it must be confessed that she made but a modest figure.

30 Mrs. Penniman was a tall, thin, fair, rather faded woman, with a perfectly amiable disposition, a high standard of gentility, a taste for light literature, and a certain foolish indirectness and obliquity of char-

acter. She was romantic; she was sentimental; she had a passion for little secrets and mysteries—a very innocent passion, for her secrets had hitherto always been as unpractical as addled eggs.

(1881)

1. The word "overlooking" (line 22) is meant to suggest that Mrs. Penniman does which of the following?

- A. Ignores Catherine's talent
- B. Teaches Catherine how to play the piano
- C. Supervises Catherine's piano playing
- D. Discourages Catherine
- E. Hires Catherine's tutors

2. Which of the following does Mrs. Penniman use metaphorically to talk about her influence on Catherine?

- A. Addled eggs
- B. Butter
- C. Bread
- D. Salt
- E. A fool

3. What does the author imply by the terms "it must be confessed that she made but a modest figure" (lines 25-26)?

- A. Catherine was trim and fit.
- B. Catherine was unaware of her talent.
- C. Catherine was unlikely to brag.
- D. Catherine was a talented dancer.
- E. Catherine was just an average dancer.

4. The narrative tone in the above piece can best be described as

- A. melodramatic
- B. ironic
- C. sardonic
- D. didactic
- E. observant

5. The narrative point of view in the above passage is that of a

- A. third person
- B. protagonist
- C. second person

- D. sarcastic first person
 - E. detached first person
6. In this context, "addled" (line 34) most nearly means
- A. confused
 - B. rotten
 - C. scrambled
 - D. burdened
 - E. useful

Try out some questions about the anonymous poem you read earlier.

“A Pilgrim’s Solace”

Stay, O sweet, and do not rise!
The light that shines comes from thine eyes;
The day breaks not: it is my heart,
Because that you and I must part.
Stay! Or else my joys will die
And perish in their infancy.

7. Which of the following can be found in the poem?
- A. Onomatopoeia
 - B. Ascertainable rhyme scheme
 - C. Oxymoron
 - D. Change in perspective
 - E. Alliteration
8. Which of the following can be inferred from the poem?
- A. It is sunset.
 - B. There will be trouble if she is found in his room.
 - C. The woman will follow his wishes.
 - D. They are both hungry.
 - E. She makes him happy.