

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 try the techniques on this poem.

“There Is No Frigate Like a Book”

There is no frigate like a book
To take us lands away,
Nor any coursers like a page
Line Of prancing poetry.
5 This traverse may the poorest take
Without oppress of toll;
How frugal is the chariot
That bears a human soul!

(c. 1890)

"There Is No Frigate Like a Book" was written by Emily Dickinson (1830-1886). Her simple poems are filled with imagery.

1. The poem implies

- A. boats are unlike books
- B. it is better to have a vehicle for the body than for the mind
- C. there are more books than boats
- D. books are excellent ways to experience the world
- E. the author values the practical over the frivolous

2. In line 3, "coursers" most nearly means

- A. swift horses
- B. slow skiffs
- C. textbooks
- D. ancient chariots
- E. poetic devices

3. The diction of the poem is characterized by

- A. an abundance of description
- B. lofty syntax
- C. forceful actions
- D. humorous word play
- E. awkward contrasts

4. Which of the following does the poem imply?

- A. The poor are less likely to travel than the rich.
- B. Saved money should be put toward travel.
- C. Literature is an inexpensive means of escape.
- D. Literature should be free.
- E. Literature can touch a person's soul.

5. It is reasonable to infer that

- A. the speaker prefers action to passivity
- B. the speaker thinks there is great power in the written word
- C. the speaker enjoys travel narratives
- D. the speaker has an active fantasy life
- E. the speaker values frugality as a virtue

6. In line 5, "This traverse" refers metaphorically to

- A. the journey across the river of life
- B. the path toward wisdom
- C. getting lost in a book
- D. the process of education
- E. the inevitability of old age

7. The speaker's tone is best described as

- A. cheerfully lecturing
- B. forcefully instructive
- C. tirelessly proactive
- D. gently persuasive
- E. selfishly sincere