

A New England Nun (1891)
By Mary E. Wilkins Freeman (United States)

Directions: This part consists of selections from prose works and questions on their content form and style. After reading each passage, choose the best answer to each question.

Note: Pay particular attention to the requirement of questions that contain the words NOT, LEAST, or EXCEPT.

Questions 1-12 concern “A New England Nun” by Mary E. Wilkins Freeman.

1. The narrator provides the clause “that was as much a matter of course as breathing” (lines 9-10) most probably as
 - (A) a parenthetical observation that characterizes Louisa
 - (B) a subtle indication that Louisa was too old-fashioned
 - (C) a critical commentary that undercuts Louisa’s own remarks
 - (D) an aside to the reader about the importance of habits
 - (E) an exaggeration for the sake of ridiculing Louisa
2. In lines 16-17, “that she had heard aright” refers to Louisa’s belief that
 - (A) Joe has an intimate relationship with Lily
 - (B) Joe has spoken rudely to Lily
 - (C) Joe has confessed his love for Louisa
 - (D) she has perhaps spoken too candidly
 - (E) she has certainly misconstrued Joe’s remarks
3. Lines 15-23 chiefly serve to show that Louisa was capable of
 - (A) equivocating without knowing it
 - (B) directing a conversation with discretion and subtlety
 - (C) being forceful when the occasion demanded it
 - (D) fluctuating in her resolve yet maintaining appearances
 - (E) sympathizing with others regardless of her own pain
4. In lines 22-23, “he was as afraid of betraying himself as she” is best interpreted to mean that
 - (A) Joe feared that Louisa was determined to reject him
 - (B) Louisa was frightened that she had lost Joe’s love
 - (C) both Joe and Louisa had been betrayed by Lily
 - (D) Joe feared that Lily had betrayed him to Louisa
 - (E) both Louisa and Joe hesitated to express their true desires
5. The dominant element of Joe and Louisa’s meeting (lines 11-44) is
 - (A) mutual passion
 - (B) shared yearning
 - (C) tactfulness on both of their parts
 - (D) possessiveness on Joe’s part
 - (E) a growing sense of betrayal on Louisa’s part

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6. The images in lines 50-59 suggest that
- (A) Louisa envisions her future as bleak and uneventful
 - (B) Lily had effectively isolated Louisa from community life
 - (C) Joe had abandoned both Lily and Louisa and left the region
 - (D) Louisa had been quite troubled by the prospect of matrimony
 - (E) Louisa and Joe anticipated a blissful future together as husband and wife
7. In line 63, “her birthright” is best interpreted to mean Louisa’s
- (A) inherited property
 - (B) natural inclination toward a peaceful life
 - (C) chance for marriage
 - (D) inherited position as a respected member of the community
 - (E) special relationship with Lily Dyer
8. The chief effect of the imagery and figures of speech in lines 65-75 is to
- (A) establish an attitude of separation and loneliness
 - (B) create a mood of domestic happiness and convivial society
 - (C) leave an impression of an impending romantic encounter
 - (D) suggest a rejection of worldly things in favor of a purely spiritual realm
 - (E) affirm an atmosphere of reclusive peace and tranquillity
9. By comparing Louisa to “an uncloistered nun” (line 75), the narrator invites a further comparison between
- (A) individuals and society
 - (B) Louisa’s home and a house of worship
 - (C) the conditions of Louisa’s life and life in a convent
 - (D) the sounds outside the house and the peace within it
 - (E) the different futures open to men and to women
10. The excerpt is chiefly concerned with a
- (A) plan and its execution
 - (B) decision and its effect
 - (C) dispute and its adjudication
 - (D) hope and its defeat
 - (E) problem and its analysis
11. Which of the following best describes Joe Dagger’s speech?
- (A) Colloquial and unfocused
 - (B) Amorous and impassioned
 - (C) Pedantic and pompous
 - (D) Subtle and refined
 - (E) Informal and straightforward
12. At the end of the excerpt, Louisa probably believes that Joe Dagget had been
- (A) a better man than she had originally thought
 - (B) a threat to her personal freedom
 - (C) the only man she could have loved
 - (D) unwilling to stand by his promises
 - (E) unlikely ever to speak to her again

END OF SECTION I.

**IF FINISHED BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, YOU MAY
CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION.**