

Read History
By Edna St. Vincent Millay (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 1-11 concern "Read History" by Edna St. Vincent Millay.

1. The poem is best described as
 - (A) a sestina
 - (B) an English (Shakespearean) sonnet
 - (C) an Italian (Petrarchan) sonnet
 - (D) an ode
 - (E) a ballad
2. The initial clauses in lines 1-2 ("Read ... sleep") are best described as
 - (A) declarations
 - (B) commands
 - (C) boasts
 - (D) concessions
 - (E) apologies
3. The tone of the statement in line 3 is best characterized as
 - (A) contemplative
 - (B) understated
 - (C) laudatory
 - (D) apologetic
 - (E) ironic
4. Line 4 suggests that "We" respond to "the crime"
 - (A) superficially
 - (B) evenhandedly
 - (C) surreptitiously
 - (D) painstakingly
 - (E) instantaneously
5. Lines 5-8 draw a contrast between
 - (A) technological and moral understanding
 - (B) physical and emotional suffering
 - (C) past and present misfortune
 - (D) moral and immoral action
 - (E) forgotten and remembered transgression
6. The primary purpose of lines 5-8 is to
 - (A) dramatize the power of the engines of modern technology
 - (B) separate base motives from lofty ones
 - (C) emphasize the increasing range and universality of human endeavor
 - (D) allege that humans fail at both sublimity and profundity
 - (E) argue that human achievements are worthless
7. In lines 9-14, the speaker suggests that "this Earth" will likely
 - (A) witness positive and negative extremes of human behavior
 - (B) endure previously unimaginable trials and tribulations
 - (C) enter a new phase of intellectual achievement
 - (D) be marred by recurring violence and suffering
 - (E) be renewed by the sacrifice of noble soldiers

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8. Line 10 is notable for its use of all of the following EXCEPT
- (A) alliteration
 - (B) assonance
 - (C) consonance
 - (D) internal rhyme
 - (E) iambic meter
9. The phrase "our poison" (line 12) most likely refers to
- (A) unbridled greed
 - (B) restless movement
 - (C) aggressive instincts
 - (D) unrelenting skepticism
 - (E) cowardly acts
10. What course of action would the speaker most wish people to take?
- (A) Resign the struggle and just learn their place in history
 - (B) Stop fouling every shore with human pollution
 - (C) Overcome obstacles to individual success and prosperity
 - (D) Accept the fact of inevitable human bloodshed
 - (E) Understand the sources of violence and work to change them
11. Taken as a whole, the poem is best understood to be
- (A) an apology
 - (B) an admonition
 - (C) a eulogy
 - (D) a parable
 - (E) a reminiscence

END OF SECTION I.

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