

Poetry Test

Multiple Choice

Identify the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

- _____ 1. An **extended metaphor** —
- develops a metaphor for several lines or for an entire poem
 - compares two unlike things using the word *like* or *as*
 - exaggerates how people and things act
 - uses two or more connotations for the same word in a poem
- _____ 2. The **image** of icy winds appeals to our sense of —
- sight
 - touch
 - smell
 - taste
- _____ 3. What is the name for a word or phrase that describes one thing in terms of another and is not literally true?
- Description
 - Figure of speech
 - Allusion
 - Inference
- _____ 4. “My pillow is soft and fluffy like a cloud” is an example of a(n) —
- symbol
 - simile
 - metaphor
 - extended metaphor
- _____ 5. **Personification** occurs when —
- characters express the author’s views
 - reality contrasts with our expectations
 - people are described as animals
 - something not human is given human qualities
- _____ 6. What is a **sonnet**?
- Two lines of poetry that rhyme
 - A short humorous poem
 - A fourteen-line poem that usually has a set pattern of rhythm and rhyme
 - A poem that tells about a hero’s actions
- _____ 7. A **ballad** is a —
- serious poem written in memory of someone
 - group of lines in a poem that form a single unit
 - songlike poem that tells a story
 - line that is repeated in a poem
- _____ 8. Poetry that is written in **meter** —
- does not rhyme
 - is also known as free verse
 - has a regular pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables
 - is normally very short
- _____ 9. **Internal rhyme** occurs when —
- rhymes occur at the ends of lines
 - words within a line of poetry rhyme
 - the poet uses words that do not rhyme exactly
 - only some parts of a poem contain rhyme

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- _____ 10. **Onomatopoeia** is the use of a word —
- a. that sounds like what it means
 - b. from an older language
 - c. in which a vowel sound is repeated
 - d. that has shades of meaning
- _____ 11. Which of the following phrases contains **alliteration**?
- a. pickled peppers
 - b. loud shout
 - c. long march
 - d. eerie eels

This test asks you to use the skills and strategies you have learned in this collection. Read the poem "The Secret Heart," and then answer the questions that follow it.

The Secret Heart
by Robert P. Tristram Coffin

Across the years he could recall
His father one way best of all.

In the stillest hour of night
The boy awakened to a light.

Half in dreams, he saw his sire¹
With his great hands full of fire.

The man had struck a match to see
If his son slept peacefully.

He held his palms each side the spark
His love had kindled in the dark.

His two hands were curved apart
In the semblance² of a heart.

He wore, it seemed to his small son,
A bare heart on his hidden one,

A heart that gave out such a glow
No son awake could bear to know.

It showed a look upon a face
Too tender for the day to trace.

One instant, it lit all about,
And then the secret heart went out.

But it shone long enough for one
To know that hands held up the sun.

1. **sire:** father.

2. **semblance:** form.

"The Secret Heart" from *The Collected Poems of Robert P. Tristram Coffin*. Copyright 1935 by Macmillan Publishing Company; Copyright renewed © 1963 by Margaret Coffin Halvosa.

Comprehension

- _____ 12. The secret heart of this poem is created by —
- a lit match a father holds over a sleeping son
 - a dream in which a sick boy gets well again
 - the speaker's fondness for the poem's diction
 - an experiment involving an artificial heart
- _____ 13. The setting of the poem is a —
- classroom during a science demonstration
 - campfire far from houses and towns
 - boy's room in a house at night
 - dreamscape the speaker has imagined
- _____ 14. The tone of the poem is —
- adventurous
 - loving
 - fearful
 - unreliable
- _____ 15. What is the relationship between the boy and father?
- The boy is afraid of his father, and the father ignores his son.
 - The boy is afraid of his father, and the father is afraid of the son.
 - The boy does not know how he feels about his father.
 - They love each other.
- _____ 16. Which statement expresses the conclusion of "The Secret Heart" as it is stated in the last stanza of the poem?
- The boy is safe in the father's protective and loving hands.
 - If young children awaken in the night, they might think that it is already day.
 - Love of a parent is a fading memory that slips away in the dark of night.
 - The boy will grow up and conduct scientific experiments involving the sun.
- _____ 17. An **implied metaphor** —
- compares more than two things at one time
 - suggests comparisons rather than state them directly
 - includes words from more than one language in a figure of speech
 - states a comparison directly over several lines or an entire poem
- _____ 18. Which line of poetry is an example of implied metaphor?
- My heart chugs like a train down the track of love.
 - My heart chugs down the track of love.
 - My heart is a train, chugging down love's track.
 - My heart is not a train but the track a train chugs along.

Literary Focus

The questions below refer to the selections "The Base Stealer" and "American Hero."

- _____ 19. Which line from "The Base Stealer" is *not* an example of **alliteration**?
- "Delicate, delicate, delicate, delicate—now!"
 - "Taunts them, hovers like an ecstatic bird"
 - "How he teeters, skitters, tingles, teases"
 - "Running a scattering of steps sidewise"

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- _____ 20. Which line is *not* an example of **simile** in “The Base Stealer”?
- a. “Both ways taut like a tightrope-walker”
 - b. “Now bouncing tiptoe like a dropped ball”
 - c. “He’s only flirting, crowd him, crowd him”
 - d. “Taunts them, hovers like an ecstatic bird”