Visiting the Museum of Modern Art

A rush of museum visitors
swirl past me as I sit on the floor,
like a rock in a river, to study this painting.
I am the only one who stopped.

A spill of yellow, cymbals, a cacophony
of color splutters and spins,
pulling my eye down the canvas
of this strange, mesmerizing painting.

Hidden in the bottom corner, a clue, a hint,
a surprising shadow. I catch my breath,
feeling as if I've received an invitation
to another world, an other-world.

How is this possible? How did the artist
beckon me inside an open door?
I feel as if I'm all alone in the museum,
walking across a threshold,
stepping into a space I've been before.
Suddenly I'm seeing
the crush of a crowded subway train,
a sparrow beating against a windowpane,
rubber ducks and roller coaster rides,
my grandmother's old house, a long-lost dog,
a wind-up frog I've nearly forgotten.

The guard tells me to move along,
the museum is closing. I leave knowing
I'll be back tomorrow to step inside
the mysteries of a painting titled:
You Decide.

What does the author's choice of details and images in stanzas 2 and 3 suggest about the speaker?

A. The speaker is impressed and amazed by the art in the museum.

B. The speaker is captivated and consumed by the painting.

C. The speaker appreciates and deeply respects famous pieces of art.

D. The speaker enjoys studying famous pieces of art alone.
The poem's structure and features indicate that it is which form of poetry?

A. sonnet  
B. ode  
C. free verse  
D. elegy

Which statement BEST reveals the theme of the poem?

A. In order to appreciate art, one must study a painting for a long period of time.  
B. Art is a powerful force that can unexpectedly invoke both the familiar and the new.  
C. Museums may seem boring at first, but in time you will learn to appreciate them.  
D. Artists are amazing because they have the ability to create provocative images.

Which line BEST signals a shift in the poem?

A. “I catch my breath, feeling as if I’ve received an invitation to another world, an other-world.”  
B. “Suddenly I’m seeing the crush of a crowded subway train, a sparrow beating against a windowpane . . .”  
C. “A rush of museum visitors swirl past me as I sit on the floor, like a rock in a river, to study this painting.”  
D. “I feel as if I’m all alone in the museum, walking across a threshold, stepping into a space I’ve been before.”
What image is conveyed through the words “open door” and “threshold”?  
A. an invitation to enter the painting  
B. an invitation to critique the painting  
C. an invitation to appreciate the painting  
D. an invitation to understand the painting

Which statement describes the figurative language in stanza 2 and its effect?  
A. The simile and hyperbole create an image of rainbow colors.  
B. The metaphor and hyperbole create an image of musical instruments.  
C. The simile and hyperbole create an image of mysterious nature.  
D. The metaphor and hyperbole create an image of compelling chaos.

Read these lines from the poem:  
How did the artist  
*beckon* me inside an open door?  
What is the connotation of the word *beckon* as used in this line?  
A. trick  
B. wave  
C. call  
D. lure
Which thesis BEST conveys the relationship between the imagery, tone, and main idea in the poem?

A. In the poem “Visiting the Museum of Modern Art,” the author uses figurative imagery to convey an ecstatic tone toward the fulfilling experience of sitting alone in a museum, studying art for hours.

B. In the poem “Visiting the Museum of Modern Art,” the author uses literal imagery to convey a reflective tone toward the meaningful experience of immersing oneself in art that reminds you of your past.

C. In the poem “Visiting the Museum of Modern Art,” the author blends literal and figurative imagery to convey an inspired tone toward the experience of immersing oneself in quality art.

D. In the poem “Visiting the Museum of Modern Art,” the author uses connotative imagery to convey a smug tone toward the unusual experience of sitting alone in a museum, studying art for hours.
On the Death of Dr. Benjamin Franklin

By Philip Freneau

Thus, some tall tree that long hath stood
The glory of its native wood,
By storms destroyed, or length of years,
Demands the tribute of our tears.
The pile, that took long time to raise,
To dust returns by slow decays:
But, when its destined years are o'er,
We must regret the loss the more.
So long accustomed to your aid,
The world laments your exit made;
So long befriended by your art,
Philosopher, 'tis hard to part!—
When monarchs tumble to the ground,
Successors1 easily are found:
But, matchless FRANKLIN! what a few
Can hope to rival such as YOU,
Who seized from kings their sceptered2 pride,
And turned the lightning darts aside.

1 successors: people who replace others in an office or position

2 sceptered: an adjective form of the word scepter

"On the Death of Dr. Benjamin Franklin" by Philip Freneau, written in 1788 and published in American Poetry in 1918 by C. Scribner’s Sons.
Which rhyme scheme is used in this poem?

A. aabb
B. internal rhyme
C. abab
D. iambic pentameter

Which of the following BEST describes the author's perspective in "On the Death of Dr. Benjamin Franklin"?

A. Franklin's fear of storms cost him his life.
B. Franklin was a notable environmentalist.
C. Franklin was worthy of great admiration.
D. Franklin was an avid supporter of the fine arts.

Read stanza 3.

So long accustomed to your aid,
The world laments your exit made;
So long befriended by your art,
Philosopher, 'tis hard to part!—

What is the meaning of the word *laments*?

**Options:**

A. respects
B. mourns
C. rejoices
D. resists
Which statement is the MOST accurate paraphrase of a metaphor in the poem "On the Death of Dr. Benjamin Franklin"?

A. Dr. Franklin's life is that of a tree.
B. Dr. Franklin's energy is that of lightning.
C. Dr. Franklin's beliefs are those of a philosopher.
D. Dr. Franklin's accomplishments are those of a king.

Which statement BEST analyzes the effect of the figurative language in stanza 1?

A. Freneau's poem, "On the Death of Dr. Benjamin Franklin," describes a forest to create a violent and mournful tone.
B. Freneau's poem, "On the Death of Dr. Benjamin Franklin," uses similes to create an image of Franklin's unique accomplishments.
C. Freneau's poem, "On the Death of Dr. Benjamin Franklin," uses a metaphor to create an image of Franklin's strength and wisdom.
D. Freneau's poem, "On the Death of Dr. Benjamin Franklin," uses hyperbole and personification to create a reflective tone.
O Captain! My Captain!

By Walt Whitman

O Captain! my Captain! our fearful trip is done,
The ship has weather'd every rack,1 the prize we sought is won,
The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting,2
While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel grim and daring;
But O heart! heart! heart!
O the bleeding drops of red,
Where on the deck my Captain lies,
Fallen cold and dead.

O Captain! my Captain! rise up and hear the bells;
Rise up—for you the flag is flung—for you the bugle trills,
For you bouquets and ribbon'd wreaths—for you the shores a-crowding,
For you they call, the swaying mass, their eager faces turning;
Here Captain! dear father!
This arm beneath your head!
It is some dream that on the deck,
You've fallen cold and dead.

My Captain does not answer, his lips are pale and still,
My father does not feel my arm, he has no pulse nor will,
The ship is anchor'd safe and sound, its voyage closed and done,
From fearful trip the victor ship comes in with object won;
Exult O shores, and ring O bells!
But I with mournful tread,
Walk the deck my Captain lies,
Fallen cold and dead.

1 rack: a cause of extreme anguish or suffering
2 exulting: rejoicing or celebrating
Which analytical statement BEST interprets the poem “O Captain! My Captain!”?

A. In “O Captain! My Captain!” Walt Whitman uses an extended metaphor to illustrate the tragedy of Abraham Lincoln's death at the end of the Civil War.

B. In “O Captain! My Captain!” Walt Whitman illustrates the tragedy of a brave captain who dies right before his ship returns safely home.

C. In “O Captain! My Captain!” Walt Whitman uses repetitive images of death to create a tone of suffering and hopelessness.

D. In “O Captain! My Captain!” Walt Whitman uses images of celebration to convey the deep respect and gratitude people feel for their Captain.

Which line BEST signals a shift in the poem?

A. “Fallen cold and dead.”

B. "But O heart! heart! heart!"

C. “O the bleeding drops of red,”

D. “Exult O shores, and ring O bells!”

What does the ship in "O Captain! My Captain!" MOST LIKELY symbolize?

A. the war

B. the poet

C. the country

D. the president

What is the effect of the image “fallen cold and dead,” repeated at the end of each stanza?

A. The speaker emphasizes the idea that the Captain is not able to celebrate the victory.

B. The speaker emphasizes the irony that the Captain is dead and people do not know.

C. The speaker emphasizes the idea that he is in great shock over the Captain’s death.

D. The speaker emphasizes the irony that with great victory comes great tragedy.
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1 rack: a cause of extreme anguish or suffering
2 exulting: rejoicing or celebrating
18. Which literary device is used primarily in both poems?
   A. extended metaphor
   B. free verse
   C. internal rhyme
   D. figurative language

19. Which theme is represented in both poems?
   A. Great leaders are rare because it takes courage, strength, and determination to lead a country and earn respect.
   B. Great leaders change the world and inspire others through their wisdom and unwavering devotion to their county.
   C. It is important to honor the people who sacrifice for our country and make it possible for us to live life to the fullest.
   D. Both poems are about death: one poem is about Benjamin Franklin's death and the other is about Abraham Lincoln's death.
Jerome is writing a style analysis essay on the work of the poet Langston Hughes. He wants to revise the first draft of his thesis statement to improve the syntax and minimize repetition. Which revision effectively meets the writer’s purpose?

A. Langston Hughes uses figurative language and similes to represent his ideas in an imaginative way that is not literal, but rather open to interpretation.

B. In the poem “Harlem,” Langston Hughes uses contrasting similes to create a vivid image of an abstract idea.

C. The poem “Harlem” contains a lot of strong imagery that helps the reader who is reading the poem picture the idea.

D. In the poem “Harlem,” Hughes uses similes to compare “a dream deferred” to something else, such as a “heavy load.”

Sophia is writing a style analysis essay on William Wordsworth’s poem “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud.” The first draft of her thesis statement is short and choppy. She wants to improve the syntax to convey a clear and concise analysis of the poem. Which revised sentence BEST meets the writer’s purpose?

A. In the poem “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud,” William Wordsworth uses personification, similes, hyperbole, and he uses literal detail, vivid verbs, and repetition to create an unforgettable image of nature.

B. The poem “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud,” contains literal detail, is written in first person, and it includes a variety of figurative language, vivid verbs and repetition; these techniques allow the reader to share the experience.

C. William Wordsworth skillfully uses first person perspective; vivid verbs like “twinkle”; repetition of the word “gazed”; figurative language such as similes, personification, and hyperbole; and literal detail appealing to sight.

D. In the poem “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud,” William Wordsworth effectively uses detail and personification to convey a meaningful experience with nature.
Henry is drafting an analysis of Gwendolyn Brooks’s poem, “We Real Cool,” and he wrote this topic sentence:

Gwendolyn Brooks uses musical devices to show the attitude of the pool players.

Which word BEST replaces the underlined word to improve the tone of this sentence?
A. indicate
B. mock
C. address
D. reveal

Read this topic sentence.

Gwendolyn Brooks uses musical devices to depict the attitude of the pool players.

Which statement BEST supports this topic sentence and is written correctly?
A. “Sing sin” and “thin gin” in lines 7 and 8 are examples of Assonance; and they convey the idea that the boys are proud of themselves as they celebrate their rebellion.
B. For example, the alliteration in “Lurk late” and “Strike straight” creates a sassy tone, which conveys the idea that the guys are proud of their rebellious behavior (5-6).
C. In lines 1-10, Gwendolyn Brooks uses musical devices, stanza breaks, and rhyme scheme to convey the idea that the guys are proud of their rebellious behavior.
D. For example the alliteration in “We real cool” and “We Left school” creates a sassy tone, which conveys the idea that the guys are proud of their rebellious behavior (3-4).
Laurie is drafting an analysis of Sandra Cisneros’s poem “Abuelito Who” and she wrote this topic sentence:

Sandra Cisneros blends similes and metaphors to create a clear image of her grandfather.

Which word BEST replaces the underlined word to improve the tone of this sentence?

A. accurate  
B. uplifting  
C. original  
D. exciting

Read this topic sentence.

Sandra Cisneros blends similes and metaphors to create a clear image of her grandfather.

Which statement BEST supports this topic sentence and is written correctly?

A. For instance, by the end of the poem, the grandfather, “who throws coins like rain,” has become “the rain on the roof that falls like coins” (1, 21).
B. For example in line 1 and line 2 the grandfather “who throws coins like rain” becomes “the rain on the roof that falls like coins.”
C. Sandra Cisneros uses figurative language to illustrate the complexity of her relationship with her grandfather.
D. The Grandfather “asks who loves him,” “is too sad to come downstairs today;” and “sleeps in his little room all night and day.”