from Nature, from Self-Reliance, “The Snowstorm,” and “Concord Hymn” by Ralph Waldo Emerson

Selection Test A

Critical Reading Identify the letter of the choice that best answers the question.

1. How does a reader challenge any text?
   A. by questioning the writer’s opinions
   B. by proofreading the material for errors
   C. by agreeing with the writer’s opinions
   D. by rereading the text for clarity

2. What is a basic Transcendentalist idea found in the selection from Nature?
   A. Nature is cruel and indifferent.
   B. Nature and humans are connected.
   C. Nature must be studied to be appreciated.
   D. Nature is apart from the human world.

3. Which of these suggests a meaning for Emerson’s words from Nature: “In the woods is perpetual youth”?
   A. Only young people like to walk in the woods.
   B. People feel refreshed and young in the woods.
   C. The woods attracts those who don’t like to grow up.
   D. The natural world is found only in the woods.

4. Which of the following expresses a key idea of the selection from Self-Reliance?
   A. Be guided by the will of the majority.
   B. It is wise to try to be like others.
   C. The individual mind is the only guide.
   D. Social customs are necessary for peace.

5. Which of these character traits, as described in Self-Reliance, is a key element of Transcendentalism?
   A. being like others when possible
   B. teaching others to be like you
   C. always being your own person
   D. trying to become a genius
6. In “Concord Hymn,” what does Emerson mean by “the shot heard round the world”?
   A. a battle fought with very large and noisy weapons  
   B. a battle written about in many foreign newspapers  
   C. the opening battle of the Revolutionary War  
   D. a battle farmers wrote about to their European relatives

7. Which Transcendentalist belief is reflected in this passage from “Concord Hymn”?
   Spirit, that made those heroes dare / To die, and leave their children free, / Bid Time
   and Nature gently spare / The shaft we raise to them and thee.
   A. the importance of the individual  
   B. the unity of nature and humanity  
   C. the limitation of human senses  
   D. the presence of an Over-Soul

8. In “The Snowstorm,” which element of Transcendentalism does Emerson depict
   by comparing the north wind to a human being?
   A. the seeking of truth  
   B. the unity of humans and nature  
   C. the importance of self-reliance  
   D. the limitation of human senses

Vocabulary and Grammar

9. In which of the following sentences is the meaning of the word *aversion* expressed?
   A. To be self-reliant is to trust one’s own heart and experiences.  
   B. Many great men have also been misunderstood.  
   C. The conformist is hostile to the person who respects individuality.  
   D. The world will support a person who acts with integrity.

10. In which of the following pairs is a long sentence followed by a shorter sentence
    that emphasizes the material in the first sentence?
    A. “There I feel that nothing can befall me in life—no disgrace, no calamity (leav-
       ing me my eyes), which nature cannot repair. Standing on the bare ground—
       my head bathed by the blithe air and uplifted into infinite space—all mean
       egotism vanishes.”
    B. “I am the lover of uncontained and immortal beauty. In the wilderness, I find
       something more dear and connate than in the streets or villages.”
    C. “I am not alone and unacknowledged. They nod to me, and I to them.”
    D. “In the woods, too, a man casts off his years, as the snake his slough, and at
        what period soever of life is always a child. In the woods is perpetual youth.”
Essay

11. In *Self-Reliance*, does Emerson express respect for the expectations of society, or does he criticize society’s expectations? Write a brief essay to give your description of Emerson’s position. Use at least two examples from the selection.

12. As a Transcendentalist, Emerson believed in the deep connection between humans and the natural world. How does he express this belief in the poem “The Snow-storm”? Write a brief essay to explain his belief. Use at least two examples from the poem to support your explanation.