

Released/Sample Test Questions by Reading Literature Standard-8th Grade

RL.8.1 Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

Select **two** details from Passage 1 that show why Gawain chooses to pursue the Graal.

Select the sentence from paragraph 3 of "Narcissus Myth" that explains what causes Narcissus to become obsessed with looking at himself.

Select the detail that shows that Alice prefers to avoid conflict with the Queen.

Which sentence from Passage 1 shows why Atlas offers to take the apples to the king?

RL.8.2 Analyze literary text development. a. Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text. b. Incorporate a theme and its relationship to other story elements into an objective summary of the text.

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A What is a shared theme of both passages?

Part B How is the theme from Part A represented in each passage? Select **one** answer for **each** passage.

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A In Passage 2, what theme is suggested by Graham's situation?

Part B Which quotation helps develop the theme in Part A.

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A What is a theme of the passage?

Part B How do Alice's actions develop the theme?

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A What is a theme of in Passage 1?

Part B Which sentence from the passage supports the theme in Part A?

RL.8.3 Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.

In "Narcissus Myth," what does Hera's treatment of Echo reveal about Hera?

What does paragraph 14 reveal about Alice?

Read these sentences from Passage 1.

"Why, beautiful being, do you shun me? Surely my face is not one to repel you. The nymphs love me, and you yourself look not indifferent upon me." (paragraph 1)

Which **two** qualities do these sentences reveal about Narcissus?

Read the excerpt from Passage 1.

"We will see about that, one of these days," answered the giant. 'At all events, you ought not to complain, if you have to bear it the next hundred years, or perhaps the next thousand. I bore it a good while longer, in spite of the back-ache.'" (paragraph 6)

What does this excerpt reveal about Atlas?

Read the sentence from Passage 2.

'Since you ask, I'd like a pad for my head—take the weight off.'

How does this dialogue lead to Atlas's decision to take the universe from Heracles?

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RL.8.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.

L.8.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words or phrases based on grade 8 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

Select **two** phrases from the excerpt that emphasize the dark mood of Passage 2.

Read this sentence from Passage 1.

“And, besides, I have no fancy for burdening myself with the sky, just now.” (paragraph 4)

What is the meaning of the word fancy as it is used in this paragraph?

Read the excerpt from Passage 1.

“Sir, I bring here a young knight, the which is of king’s lineage, whereby the marvels of this court shall be accomplished, and the trial of this thy kingdom shall be brought to a happy end, if that may be. And the name of him is Galahad.”

What does the use of the word trial suggest in this excerpt?

Read the sentence from paragraph 1 of “Narcissus Myth.”

“As she listened amused, the others silently stole away and Hera could come to no conclusion as to where Zeus’s wandering fancy had alighted.”

What does the phrase stole away reveal about the nymphs?

Read the sentence from Passage 1.

“Ah, the thick-witted old rogue of a giant!” (paragraph 9)

What is the meaning of the phrase thick-witted as it is used in this sentence?

Read the sentence from Passage 2.

“Slowly, so as not to spill one drop of milk, Atlas lowered the Cosmos back onto his shoulders, and bent himself under the burden.” (paragraph 30)

How does the author’s use of the phrase “so as not to spill one drop of milk” affect the story?

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A Read the sentence from paragraph 2 of “Narcissus Myth.”

“He was calling his companions, ‘Is anyone here?’ and she called back in rapture. ‘Here—Here.’”

What does the phrase in rapture mean as it is used in the sentence?

Part B Select two phrases from paragraph 2 that support the answer in Part A.

L.8.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

Read this sentence from Passage 1.

“As he saw it depart, he exclaimed, ‘Stay, I entreat you! Let me at least gaze upon you, if I may not touch you.’ With his, and much more of the same kind, he cherished the flame that consumed him, so that by degrees he lost his color, his vigor, and the beauty which formerly had so charmed the nymph Echo.” (paragraph 1)

What does the phrase “the flame that consumed him” emphasize?

Read the sentence from Passage 2.

“And when winter came upon it, he would still be standing where spring trembles on the verge of summer.” (paragraph 4)

What does this sentence mean?

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RL.8.5 Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style.

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A How is the structure of Passage 2 different from the structure of Passage 1?

Part B Which aspect of the passages is affected by this difference in structure?

RL.8.6 Analyze how differences in the points of view and perspectives of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create effects such as suspense or humor.

Read the sentence from Passage 2.

"Once, in boyish mockery of Narcissus, he had kissed, or feigned to kiss, those painted lips that now smiled so cruelly at him." (paragraph 2)

Why is Dorian's mockery ironic?

Read paragraphs 7 and 8 from Passage 1.

How does the speaker's point of view in those paragraphs increase the tension of Passage 1?

What is emphasized by Alice's and the Queen's differing points of view?

Which statement accurately explains why the Oreads are surprised by the pool's reaction to Narcissus's death in "The Disciple"?

How does the difference between Alice's point of view and the Queen's in paragraphs 24-25 affect the passage?

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A In "Narcissus Myth," how is the reader's understanding of Echo different from Narcissus's understanding of Echo?

Part B How does the difference described in Part A affect the tone of the passage?

RL.8.9 Analyze how a modern work of fiction alludes to themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, and religious literary texts, such as (but not limited to) the Bible and *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, including describing how the material is rendered new.

How is the painting in Passage 2 similar to the fountain in Passage 1?

Select **two** ways that the story in Passage 2 is similar to the story in Passage 1.

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A How has Atlas's character in Passage 2 been transformed from the way it was portrayed in Passage 1?

Part B Select the detail from Passage 2 that supports the answer in Part A.