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Class: English I PreAP  
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- setting  
- vocabulary  
- characterization  
- figurative language  
- undecided / miscellaneous

Questions 1 - 10:

Read the following text carefully before choosing the best answer for each question.

Excerpt from *My Antonia*

Willa Cather

Autumn  
Is this a farm?

North of the house, inside the ploughed firebreaks, grew a thick-set strip of box-elder trees, low and bushy, their leaves already turning yellow. This hedge was nearly a quarter of a

strong imagery

5 mile long, but I had to look very hard to see it at all. The little trees were insignificant against the grass. It seemed as if the grass were about to run over them, and over the plum-patch behind the sod chicken-house.

imagery

rustic

the grass is alive!

10 As I looked about me I felt that the grass was the country, as the water is the sea. The red of the grass made all the great prairie the colour of wine-stains, or of certain seaweeds when they are first washed up. And there was so much

philosophical

symbol - blood, power, love, life, personification, repetition, how strange!

theme: relates to the living land

15 I had almost forgotten that I had a grandmother, when she came out, her sunbonnet on her head, a grain-sack in her hand, and asked me if I did not want to go to the garden with her to dig potatoes for dinner.

G. mother seems more practical

The garden, curiously enough, was a quarter of a mile from the house, and the way to it led up a shallow draw past the cattle corral.

vast space

definitely a farm

25 Grandmother called my attention to a stout hickory cane, tipped with copper, which hung by a leather thong from her belt. This, she said, was her rattlesnake cane. I must never go to the garden without a heavy stick or a corn-knife; she had killed a good many rattlers on her way back and forth. A little girl who lived on the Black Hawk road was bitten on the ankle and had been sick all summer.

G is strong & smart

G = independent rattlesnake cane

strong, reinforced, what is that?

lets rugged and wild where they live!

35 I can remember exactly how the country looked to me as I walked beside my grandmother along the faint wagon-tracks on that early September morning. Perhaps the glide of long railway travel was still with me, for more than anything else I felt motion in the

where did she come from?

the old frontier

40 landscape; in the fresh, easy-blowing morning wind, and in the earth itself, as if the shaggy grass were a sort of loose hide, and underneath it herds of wild buffalo were galloping, galloping

personification

45 Alone, I should never have found the garden—except, perhaps, for the big yellow pumpkins that lay about unprotected by their withering vines—and I felt very little interest in it when I got there. I wanted to walk straight on.

connotation negative, lonely, abandoned

imagery

50 through the red grass and over the edge of the world, which could not be very far away. The light air about me told me that the world ended here: only the ground and sun and sky were left, and if one went a little farther there would be

55 only sun and sky, and one would float off into them, like the tawny hawks which sailed over our heads making slow shadows on the grass. While grandmother took the pitchfork we found standing in one of the rows and dug potatoes,

orange-brown

60 while I picked them up out of the soft brown earth and put them into the bag, I kept looking up at the hawks that were doing what I might so easily do.

fly away - why? to where?

1. In the first paragraph, the description of the box-elders is significant because—

double meaning? end of her life? coming crisis?

- (A) they symbolize the insignificance of man's existence
- (B) the box-elders establish a rectangular boundary for the farm
- (C) the box-elder trees emphasize the immensity of the prairie grass
- (D) it shows the spatial relationship between the plum-patch and the chicken-house
- (E) the box-elders will eventually provide shade to protect the farm from the

2. The images in the second paragraph are primarily—

- (A) light and dark
- (B) danger and carelessness
- (C) control and order
- (D) desolation and destruction
- (E) movement and expanse

3. All of the following details refer to the box-elders except—

- (A) firebreaks (lines 1 - 2)
- (B) low and bushy (line 3)
- (C) turning yellow (lines 3 - 4)
- (D) This hedge (line 4)
- (E) insignificant (line 6)