



## Multiple Choice

### “Root Cellar”

#### Grade Nine

Use the poem “Root Cellar” to answer the questions that follow.

- The words “dank as a ditch” (line 1) contain examples of
  - alliteration and metaphor
  - metaphor and personification
  - alliteration and simile
  - personification and simile
  - simile and metaphor
- The words “Bulbs broke out of boxes hunting for chinks in the dark” (line 2) contain examples of
  - consonance and metonymy
  - metonymy and assonance
  - assonance and consonance
  - consonance and apostrophe
  - assonance and apostrophe
- The tone most evident in lines 1 to 9 is that of
  - corruption and disgust
  - detachment and sarcasm
  - horror and shock
  - fear and contempt
  - drama and pity
- Personification is found in the words
  - “shoots dangled and drooped” (line 3)
  - “what a congress of stinks” (line 6)
  - “Roots ripe as old bait” (line 7)
  - “Nothing would give up life” (line 10)
  - “the dirt kept breathing” (line 11)
- Lines 10 and 11 develop a mood that is one of
  - admiration
  - melancholy
  - inspiration
  - finality
  - thoughtfulness

6. That there is insufficient light for the plants to grow in the cellar is most evident in the words
- A. “Bulbs broke out of boxes” (line 2)
  - B. “Shoots dangled and drooped” (line 3)
  - C. “Lolling obscenely from mildewed crates” (line 4)
  - D. “Roots ripe as old bait” (line 7)
  - E. “Pulpy stems, rank, silo rich” (line 8)
7. The word “congress” (line 6) takes on the connotation of a
- A. ruling power
  - B. coming together
  - C. legislative body
  - D. complex delegation
  - E. discussion group
8. The verse form of the poem can be classified as
- A. blank verse
  - B. free verse
  - C. structured rhyme with no rhythm
  - D. structured rhythm with no rhyme
  - E. blank verse with a rhyming couplet
9. The line that best illustrates the theme of the poem is
- A. “Bulbs broke out of boxes hunting for chinks in the dark” (line 2)
  - B. “And what a congress of stinks” (line 6)
  - C. “Roots ripe as old bait” (line 7)
  - D. “Nothing would give up life” (line 10)
  - E. “Even the dirt kept breathing a small breath” (line 11)
10. The words “Roots ripe as old bait” (line 7) contain examples of
- A. personification and simile
  - B. personification and metaphor
  - C. simile and alliteration
  - D. alliteration and metaphor
  - E. alliteration and personification
11. Crude and abrupt diction is most evident in the words
- A. “Bulbs broke out of boxes” (line 2)
  - B. “necks, like tropical snakes” (line 5)
  - C. “And what a congress of stinks” (line 6)
  - D. “Leaf-mold, manure, lime” (line 9)
  - E. “the dirt kept breathing” (line 11)



12. Animal imagery is found in the words
- A. “Nothing would sleep in that cellar” (line 1)
  - B. “Lolling obscenely from mildewed crates” (line 4)
  - C. “Hung down long yellow evil necks” (line 5)
  - D. “Roots ripe as old bait” (line 7)
  - E. “Pulpy stems, rank, silo-rich” (line 8)
13. The tone of the poem shifts in line
- A. 1
  - B. 4
  - C. 6
  - D. 10
  - E. 11
14. The point of view used in this poem is
- A. first person with the narrator as an innocent eye character
  - B. first person with the narrator as a minor character
  - C. second person narrator
  - D. third person with an omniscient narrator
  - E. third person with an objective narrator
15. Through his poem, Theodore Roethke is illustrating the theme of the
- A. persistence and determination to live
  - B. endless search for truth in life
  - C. destruction of living things that darkness brings
  - D. horrific conditions that exist for living beings
  - E. sights and smells associated with nature