

Write answers on your own
paper please.
(allow 25 minutes)

(10) She thinks that her equinoctial tears
and the rain that beats on the roof of the house
were both foretold by the almanac,
but only known to a grandmother.
The iron kettle sings on the stove.
She cuts some bread and says to the child,

(15) *It's time for tea now*; but the child
is watching the teakettle's small hard tears
dance like mad on the hot black stove,
the way the rain must dance on the house.
Tidying up, the old grandmother
hangs up the clever almanac

(20) on its string. Birdlike, the almanac
hovers half open above the child,
hovers above the old grandmother
and her teacup full of dark brown tears.
She shivers and says she thinks the house
feels chilly, and puts more wood in the stove.

(25) *It was to be*, says the Marvel Stove.
I know what I know, says the almanac.
With crayons the child draws a rigid house
and a winding pathway. Then the child
puts in a man with buttons like tears
and shows it proudly to the grandmother.

(30) But secretly, while the grandmother
busies herself about the stove,
the little moons fall down like tears
from between the pages of the almanac
into the flower bed the child
has carefully placed in the front of the house.

Time to plant tears, says the almanac.
The grandmother sings to the marvelous stove
and the child draws another inscrutable house.

Questions 14-23. Read the following poem carefully before you
choose your answers.

Sestina

September rain falls on the house.
In the falling light, the old grandmother
sits in the kitchen with the child
beside the Little Marvel Stove,*
(5) reading the jokes from the almanac,
laughing and talking to hide her tears.

* Brand name of a wood- or coal-burning stove

14. The mood of the poem is best described as
- (A) satiric
 - (B) suspenseful
 - (C) reproachful
 - (D) elegiac
 - (E) quizzical
15. In line 10, "known to" is best interpreted as
- (A) imagined by
 - (B) intended for
 - (C) predicted by
 - (D) typified in
 - (E) experienced by
16. In line 19, "Birdlike" describes the
- (A) markings on the pages of the almanac
 - (B) whimsicality of the almanac's sayings
 - (C) shape and movement of the almanac
 - (D) child's movements toward the almanac
 - (E) grandmother's movements toward the almanac
17. Between lines 24 and 25 and between lines 32 and 33, there is a shift from
- (A) understatement to hyperbole
 - (B) realism to fantasy
 - (C) optimism to pessimism
 - (D) present events to recalled events
 - (E) formal diction to informal diction
18. The child's attitude is best described as one of
- (A) anxious dismay
 - (B) feigned sympathy
 - (C) absorbed fascination
 - (D) silent remorse
 - (E) fretful boredom
19. All of the following appear to shed tears or be filled with tears EXCEPT the
- (A) child
 - (B) teacup
 - (C) almanac
 - (D) teakettle
 - (E) grandmother
20. The grandmother and the child in the poem are portrayed primarily through descriptions of their
- (A) actions
 - (B) thoughts
 - (C) conversation
 - (D) facial expressions
 - (E) physical characteristics
21. Throughout the poem, the imagery suggests that
- (A) both nature and human beings are animated by similar forces
 - (B) most human activities have more lasting consequences than is commonly realized
 - (C) past events have little influence on activities of the present
 - (D) both natural and artificial creations are highly perishable
 - (E) the optimism of youth differs only slightly from the realism of age
22. Which of the following literary devices most significantly contributes to the unity of the poem?
- (A) Use of internal rhyme
 - (B) Use of epigrammatic expressions
 - (C) Use of alliteration
 - (D) Repetition of key words
 - (E) Repetition of syntactic patterns

23. The poet's attitude toward the characters in the poem is best described as a combination of
- (A) detachment and understanding
 - (B) disdain and curiosity
 - (C) envy and suspicion
 - (D) approval and amusement
 - (E) respect and resentment

Questions 37-46. Read the following poem carefully before you choose your answers.

The Habit of Perfection

Elected Silence, sing to me
 And beat upon my whorled ear,
 Pipe me to pastures still and be
 The music that I care to hear.

Line

- (5) Shape nothing, lips; be lovely-dumb:
 It is the shut, the curfew sent
 From there where all surrenders come
 Which only makes you eloquent.

- (10) Be shellèd, eyes, with double dark
 And find the uncreated light:
 This ruck and reel¹ which you remark
 Coils, keeps, and teases simple sight.

- (15) Palate, the hutch of tasty lust,
 Desire not to be rinsed with wine:
 The can² must be so sweet, the crust
 So fresh that come in fasts divine!

Nostrils, your careless breath that spend
 Upon the stir and keep of pride,
 What relish shall the censers' send
 (20) Along the sanctuary side!

O feel-of-primrose hands, O feet
 That want the yield of plushy sward⁴
 But you shall walk the golden street
 And you unhouse and house the Lord.

- ¹ Multitude and commotion
- ² Vessel for holding liquids
- ³ Vessels for burning incense
- ⁴ Grass-covered land

- (25) And Poverty, be thou the bride
 And now the marriage feast begun,
 And lily-colored clothes provide
 Your spouse not labored-at nor spun.

37. The importance of "Silence" (line 1) is established by all of the following EXCEPT
- (A) capitalizing the "s"
 - (B) alluding to it throughout the poem
 - (C) describing it as elected
 - (D) imparting to it human qualities
 - (E) placing it at the beginning of the poem

38. In the first stanza, the speaker makes use of paradox by doing which of the following?
- (A) Requesting that he be simultaneously serenaded and assaulted
 - (B) Expressing both a desire and an apprehension
 - (C) Using mere language to depict a religious experience
 - (D) Addressing a presence invisible to the reader
 - (E) Depicting silence as though it were a kind of sound

39. The reference to "curfew" (line 6) indirectly establishes the
(A) depth of the silence sought by the speaker
(B) existence of an ultimate spiritual power
(C) disparity between what the speaker seeks and what can actually be attained
(D) connection between the speaker's past and the future he anticipates
(E) inability of "lovely-dumb" (line 5) lips to achieve true eloquence
40. Which of the following best conveys the meaning of the word "uncreated" (line 10)?
(A) Nascent
(B) Mortal
(C) Internal
(D) Imperfect
(E) Amorphous
41. Which of the following best paraphrases the meaning of line 12?
(A) Confounds true vision
(B) Delights the spirit
(C) Demands visual acuity
(D) Emits an intense light
(E) Maintains the simplicity of vision
42. In line 13, the word "hutch" suggests the
(A) lowly animal nature of human appetite
(B) personally destructive effects of alcohol
(C) finite influence of sensual desires on the spirit
(D) ardor associated with abstinence
(E) state of poverty sought by the speaker
43. The verb phrase "must be" (line 16) serves primarily to
(A) suggest that the speaker demands the sensation of sweetness
(B) indicate that the speaker has not actually experienced the sweetness
(C) importune the reader to share in the sensation of sweetness described
(D) modify the tone of emotional intensity established by the previous stanza
(E) reflect an attitude of ambivalence on the part of the speaker
44. The words "stir" and "keep" (line 18) convey which of the following?
(A) Attraction and repulsion
(B) Excitement and exploitation
(C) Stimulation and sustenance
(D) Disruption and confusion
(E) Acquisition and refinement
45. What is the subject of "provide" (line 27)?
(A) "Poverty" (line 25)
(B) "bride" (line 25)
(C) "marriage feast" (line 26)
(D) "lily-colored clothes" (line 27)
(E) "spouse" (line 28)
46. The speaker metaphorically likens himself to a
(A) musician
(B) bridegroom
(C) laborer
(D) gardener
(E) soldier