

Pre-AP* and AP* English Resource Guides

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Each resource guide consists of

- 12 multiple-choice practices (9-10 in genre-based guides)
- 6 free-response questions (6-10 in genre-based guides)
- Answer keys with detailed answer explanations
- Suggested teaching strategies
- Literary terms list
- Vocabulary lists by chapter or selection
- Free-response Scoring Guide

Middle School and High School Curriculum

Each resource guide targets the skills most appropriate to the difficulty of the reading selections included in the guide. For titles commonly read by middle schoolers, multiple-choice questions have been modified slightly to include just four answer choices, rather than the five choices offered in high school titles.

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APPLIED PRACTICE
Resource Guide
Contemporary Poetry Selections
Pre-AP*/AP* Version

Teacher Notes

A Note for Teachers	5
A Note about Format.....	7

Teaching Resources

Strategies for Multiple-Choice Questions	11
Strategies for Free-Response Questions.....	12
Glossary of Literary Terms	13
Vocabulary Lists by Passage.....	21

Student Practices

Multiple-Choice Questions	27
“To the Confederate Dead,” Kevin Young.....	28
“A Myth of Devotion,” Louise Glück	31
“Green Chile,” Jimmy Santiago Baca	33
“since feeling is first,” e. e. cummings.....	35
“Jasmine,” Yusef Komunyakaa.....	38
“At Great Pond,” Mary Oliver	40
“Blackberrying,” Sylvia Plath	43
“Blackberry Eating,” Galway Kinnell.....	46
“Spring and All,” William Carlos Williams.....	48
“Gospel,” Philip Levine	50
Free-Response Questions	53
“Jasmine,” Yusef Komunyakaa.....	54
“At Great Pond,” Mary Oliver	55
“Spring and All,” William Carlos Williams.....	56
“Blackberrying,” Sylvia Plath	57
“To the Confederate Dead,” Kevin Young.....	58
“On Turning Ten,” Billy Collins, and “Men at Forty,” Donald Justice	59

Answer Key and Explanations

Multiple-Choice Answer Key	63
Multiple-Choice Answer Explanations	67
Free-Response Scoring Guide.....	93

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Poem 7

ebon
squander
choughs
cacophonous
din
intractable

integral
immensity
culmination

Poem 8

squinched

aggregate
abstraction

Poem 9

mottled
quickens

recurring
retracting



Blackberrying

BY SYLVIA PLATH

Nobody in the lane, and nothing, nothing but blackberries,
Blackberries on either side, though on the right mainly,
A blackberry alley, going down in hooks, and a sea
Somewhere at the end of it, heaving. Blackberries
Big as the ball of my thumb, and dumb as eyes
Ebon in the hedges, fat
With blue-red juices. These they squander on my fingers.
I had not asked for such a blood sisterhood; they must love me.
They accommodate themselves to my milkbottle, flattening their sides.

Overhead go the choughs in black, cacophonous flocks—
Bits of burnt paper wheeling in a blown sky.
Theirs is the only voice, protesting, protesting.
I do not think the sea will appear at all.
The high, green meadows are glowing, as if lit from within.
I come to one bush of berries so ripe it is a bush of flies,
Hanging their bluegreen bellies and their wing panes in a Chinese screen.
The honey-feast of the berries has stunned them; they believe in heaven.
One more hook, and the berries and bushes end.

The only thing to come now is the sea.
From between two hills a sudden wind funnels at me,
Slapping its phantom laundry in my face.
These hills are too green and sweet to have tasted salt.
I follow the sheep path between them. A last hook brings me
To the hills' northern face, and the face is orange rock
That looks out on nothing, nothing but a great space
Of white and pewter lights, and a din like silversmiths
Beating and beating at an intractable metal.

NOTES:

NOTE: The third line of the third stanza has been corrected to read "Slapping its phantom laundry in my face" instead of "Gapping its phantom laundry in my face."
[2/23/11]

Sylvia Plath, "Blackberrying" from *Collected Poems*. Copyright © 1960, 1965, 1971, 1981 by the Estate of Sylvia Plath. Editorial matter copyright © 1981 by Ted Hughes. Used by permission of HarperCollins Publishers.

Poem 7, Questions 58-68. Read the poem “Blackberrying” by Sylvia Plath carefully before you choose your answers. You may access the poem at the following Web sites:

<http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/blackberrying/>

<http://www.eliteskills.com/c/12656>

58. Which of the following pairs of words are NOT associated together?

- (A) “eyes” and “blood”
- (B) “ebon” and “blue-red”
- (C) “choughs” and “paper”
- (D) “wind” and “phantom”
- (E) “heaven” and “hook”

59. What is the best explanation for the phrase “blood sisterhood” (line beginning “I had not asked”)?

- (A) The speaker realizes the blackberries “squander” their juice to her.
- (B) The blackberries are compared to the speaker’s “thumb” and “eyes.”
- (C) The blackberries “love” the speaker and feel a kinship with her.
- (D) The speaker’s bleeding fingers and the blackberry “juices” mingle together.
- (E) The blackberries “accommodate themselves” to the vessel the speaker uses to hold them.

60. In the first stanza, the imagery is characterized mostly by references to the

- (A) sea
- (B) lane
- (C) body
- (D) hooks
- (E) juices

61. How are the blackberries and the sea contrasted?

- I. The blackberries are silent while the sea is loud.
 - II. The blackberries are dark, and the sea is white.
 - III. The blackberries grow in a bounded area, and the sea seems limitless.
- (A) I only
 - (B) I and II only
 - (C) I and III only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III

62. The words “nothing, nothing” (first line of the poem and line beginning “That looks out on nothing, nothing”) perform all the following functions in the poem EXCEPT to
- (A) offer a structure for framing the poem
 - (B) highlight the two most integral images in the poem
 - (C) reveal the loneliness nature creates in the speaker
 - (D) stress the immensity of elements of the natural world
 - (E) isolate the blackberries and the sea from other elements
63. The word “heaving” in the line “Somewhere at the end of it, heaving” modifies
- (A) “Nobody”
 - (B) “blackberries”
 - (C) “alley”
 - (D) “hooks”
 - (E) “sea”
64. Which of the following lines differs from the others in diction and syntax?
- (A) “they must love me”
 - (B) “Overhead go the choughs in black, cacophonous flocks—”
 - (C) “I do not think the sea will appear at all.”
 - (D) “they believe in heaven”
 - (E) “I follow the sheep path between them”
65. Which of the following is used extensively in the poem?
- I. Alliteration
 - II. Figurative language
 - III. Color imagery
- (A) I only
 - (B) II only
 - (C) I and II only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III
66. Which element unifies the three stanzas?
- (A) The blackberry bushes
 - (B) Images relating to the sky
 - (C) A sense of satiation in nature
 - (D) Imagery related to the human body
 - (E) Reference to reaching the sea

67. What is the best explanation for why the final image of the sea is crucial to the poem?

- (A) It contains several references to color.
- (B) It contains unusual figures of speech.
- (C) It represents the culmination of the speaker's journey.
- (D) It provides an image that contrasts with the blackberries.
- (E) It completes the images of the blackberries in the first two stanzas.

68. The choughs and the sea are similar in that they both are

- I. noisy
- II. compared to other things
- III. associated with color

- (A) I only
- (B) II only
- (C) I and II only
- (D) I and III only
- (E) I, II, and III

Question 4

(Suggested time—40 minutes)

Read the poem “Blackberrying” by Sylvia Plath carefully. Then write a well-organized essay analyzing how the poet conveys the speaker’s ultimate experience. Consider such poetic elements as imagery, form, and sound devices.

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American Short Stories Selections	Satire Selections
Mastering Synthesis	Mastering Nonfiction with Documentation

Fiction and Nonfiction Titles

1984	Jane Eyre
Across Five Aprils	Julius Caesar
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The Adventures of Tom Sawyer	Life of Pi
All the Pretty Horses	Lord of the Flies
Angela's Ashes	Macbeth
Animal Dreams	The Mayor of Casterbridge
Animal Farm	Metamorphosis
As I Lay Dying	A Midsummer Night's Dream
The Awakening	The Miracle Worker
Beloved	Moby Dick
Beowulf	Much Ado About Nothing
Bless Me, Ultima	The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass
Brave New World	Night
Selections from The Canterbury Tales	The Odyssey
The Call of the Wild	The Oedipus Trilogy
The Catcher in the Rye	Of Mice and Men
The Count of Monte Cristo	Othello
Crime and Punishment	The Outsiders
The Crucible	The Pearl
Cry, the Beloved Country	The Picture of Dorian Gray
Death of a Salesman	The Poisonwood Bible
The Diary of Anne Frank	A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
East of Eden	Pride and Prejudice
Ethan Frome	Pygmalion and Major Barbara
Fahrenheit 451	Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
A Farewell to Arms	Romeo and Juliet
Frankenstein	The Scarlet Letter
The Giver	The Secret Life of Bees
The Glass Menagerie	A Separate Peace
The Grapes of Wrath	Something Wicked This Way Comes
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Heart of Darkness	Their Eyes Were Watching God
The Hobbit	Things Fall Apart
Holes	The Things They Carried
The House on Mango Street	To Kill a Mockingbird
The Iliad	Twelfth Night
The Importance of Being Earnest	Walden
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The Inferno	Where the Red Fern Grows
Invisible Man	Wuthering Heights

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