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Question: 1

Which author of young adult fiction won the Newbery Medal for her novel A Wrinkle in Time?

A. Lois Lowry
B. J. K. Rowling
C. Ursula K. Le Guin
D. Madeleine L'Engle

Answer: D

Explanation:
Madeleine L'Engle (1918-2007) won the Newbery Medal for A Wrinkle in Time (1963). Lois Lowry (a) (born 1937) won Newbery Medals for the historical novel Number the Stars (1989) and the young-adult dystopian novel The Giver (1993). J.K. Rowling (b) (born 1965), best known for her Harry Potter series, has won numerous awards, but not the Newbery Medal (she is British; the others are American). Ursula K. Le Guin (c) (born 1929), best known for her Earthsea triloy, has won a great many awards, including a National Book Award for Young People's Literature, but not the Newbery Medal.

Question: 2

Which of the following authors was a 19th-century British novelist and short-story writer?

A. O. Henry
B. Charles Dickens
C. Herman Melville
D. Nathaniel Hawthorne

Answer: B

Explanation:
O. Henry wrote a novel, Cabbages and Kings, as well as many short stories. Herman Melville (c) and Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote both novels and short stories. All three were 19th-century American authors. However, Charles Dickens (b), who also wrote novels and short stories, was a 19th-century British author.

Question: 3

Of the following classic works, which one is NOT an epic poem?

A. Beowulf
B. The Odyssey
C. Divine Comedy
D. The Decameron

Answer: D

Explanation:
Beowulf is an epic poem by an anonymous poet written in Old English (c. 700-1000). The Odyssey (b) is an epic poem orally composed by Homer in ancient Greek (c. 760-700 BC). The Divine Comedy (c) is an epic poem written by Dante Alighieri in Tuscan Italian (1320). The Decameron (d) is a series of novellas within a frame tale (like Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, which it influenced) rather than an epic poem, written by Giovanni Boccaccio in Florentine Italian (1353).

Question: 4

What is the correct terminology for a group of related ideas, expressed in multiple lines of text, and separated from other such groups by spaces, in the genre of poetry?

A. Verse
B. Stanza
C. Refrain
D. Paragraph

Answer: B

Explanation:
The division described in the question is termed a stanza in poetry. A verse (a) is the term for a single line rather than a group of lines in poetry. (In ballads and songs it can mean a group of lines as a stanza does in poems.) A refrain (c) is a line(s), verse(s), or other set of the same or similar words that is/are repeated regularly throughout a ballad, other poem, or song. often alternating with verses. A paragraph (d) is the term for the analogous division, in prose only.

Question: 5

Among these literary genres, in which pair has one most been used within the other?

A. Nonfiction prose within poetry
B. Fictional prose within drama
C. Poetry within fictional drama
D. Poetry within nonfiction prose

Answer: C

Explanation:
William Shakespeare's plays are good literary examples of poetry within fictional drama
because they are written in verse form. Poems typically do not contain inserted prose (a). Plays are
not generally known to incorporate pieces of fictional prose (b). Nonfictional prose sometimes
incorporates quotations of poetry or even occasionally original poems, but this occurs much less
often than with Shakespeare's plays and many others written entirely or mostly in poetry (d).

Question: 6

The term soliloquy is used to refer to an element typically found in which literary genre/subgenre?

A. Drama
B. Poetry
C. Novels
D. Essays

Answer: A

Explanation:
A soliloquy is a speech made by one character in a play speaking alone, as opposed to dialogue
between/among multiple characters. Some poets (e.g., Robert Browning) have written entire
poems in the voice of a single character; however, these are called dramatic monologues rather
than soliloquies, a term generally reserved for drama, not poetry (b). Similarly, in novels (c),
conversation between/among characters is called dialogue, whereas a long speech by one character
would be called a monologue. Essays (d) are typically nonfiction and do not contain characters or
their speech.

Question: 7

Which pair contains terms typically applied to two subgenres of two different literary genres, rather than
to two subgenres of the same single literary genre?

A. Picaresque and epistolary
B. Historical and speculative
C. Persuasive and expository
D. Bildungsroman and elegy

Answer: D

Explanation:
A bildungsroman is a term for a novel in which the main character comes of age, develops,
learns, and/or grows; an elegy' is a term for a poem which mourns the dead. Picaresque refers to a
novel about the misadventures of a roguish protagonist; epistolary refers to a novel written in the
form of letters/telegrams/other correspondence (a). Fictional novels can be historical, i.e., based on
actual events and characters in history, or speculative, i.e„ exploring not actual/ current/historical but
potential/future events/developments (b). Nonfictional essays can be persuasive, i.e., aiming to

convince readers of a position, or expository, i.e,, aiming to impart information (c).

Question: 8

Among genres of literature, which is typically the most condensed or verbally economical?

A. A play
B. A novel
C. A poem
D. An essay

Answer: C

Explanation:
Poems are typically the most condensed or economical in their use of words. Plays (a), typically more condensed in language than novels because more of the story is told directly through actions which novels must verbally describe, are still not as condensed as poems because they contain more dialogue. Novels (b) are full-length books, by definition longer than short stories, novelettes, or novellas: they often elaborate more about plot and character development than many poems, thus using more words. They also more often use complete sentences throughout whereas poems may use phrases in addition to/instead of sentences. Essays (d) tend to expound on nonfictional topics in prose; hence, although they are far shorter than novels, they use many more words to express ideas than plays or most poems.

Question: 9

What is a primary distinction between the fiction subgenres of historical fiction and science fiction?

A. One is set in the real past; the other is set in the possible future.
B. One is based on facts; the other is based on speculations.
C. One is concerned with events; the other is concerned with inventions.
D. Answers (a) and (b) both apply; (c) is not necessarily true.

Answer: D

Explanation:
Historical fiction is set during some previous period of our history which may be remote, recent, or anything in between; science fiction is set during the possible future (a) or during an imagined alternative present—either one with scientific, social, and other developments not part of current reality. Historical fiction is based on periods, events, and facts from history; science fiction is based on speculations (b) of what may occur through extending current science. However, both forms can be concerned with events occurring around and/or to the characters and inventions (real and/or imaginary) could also be included in either one (c).

Question: 10

Which two subgenres of nonfiction commonly share content type but not authorship type?

A. Biography and autobiography
B. Persuasive and informational
C. Informational and biography
D. Autobiography and persuasive

Answer: A

Explanation:
Biography and autobiography share a common type of content: the life story of a real person. But they differ in authorship: biography is written by someone other than the subject, whereas autobiography is written about the author's own life. Persuasive and informational (b) nonfiction differ in content: the former seeks to influence readers, and the latter seeks to provide/explain facts objectively. Informational and biographical (c) nonfiction differ in content: the former imparts information about some subject, and the latter imparts information about someone's life. Autobiography tells the writer's life story, whereas persuasive nonfiction seeks to convince readers of something (d).

Question: 11

Of the following, which technique is NOT commonly shared by both satire and realism?

A. Writing that utilizes a serious tone
B. Exaggerating situations and ideas
C. Portraying irony in situations
D. Writing vernacular dialogue

Answer: B

Explanation:
Realistic authors strive to represent reality as closely as possible, even in fiction: they avoid exaggeration, which satire often employs to ridicule social behaviors. Both genres may be written in a serious tone (a) compatible with realism but also useful in satire: Jonathan Swift intensifies the satirical effects of A Modest Proposal by making absurd and even horrific recommendations in an ostensibly serious tone. Realists may depict situational irony, e.g„ O. Henry in "The Gift of the Magi", irony is a key satirists' tool. Writing dialogue in the vernacular (d) is a realistic technique equally appropriate in satire.

Question: 12

Which of these best represents a main theme in William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet?

A. Teenage love will always lead to tragedy.
B. Individuals defying society may be fatal.

C. Love and violence are unrelated entities.
D. Fate does not control those who defy it.

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Answer: B

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Explanation:
Throughout history, teenagers have fallen in love: moreover, in Shakespeare's time when people did not live as long as today, serious love in adolescence was not necessarily even age-inappropriate. Thus Shakespeare does not attribute the tragedy to the characters' youth in this play (a). One theme in this play is the relationship of love and violence (c), with love often causing violence. Another theme is that of fate, which does control the characters (d) in this play, emphasized in the Chorus's first speech describing them as "star-crossed."

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