

K-12

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Topic: 1

Caged

Questions 1 -5 pertain to the following passage:

- (1) I am caged.
- (2) Dim, dark, dank,
- (3) Depressing metal bars
- (4) Are my home,
- (5) My window on the world.
- (6) But for one hour each day—
- (7) Sixty precious, priceless minutes—
- (8) I am led from the dungeon
- (9) Into the bright, blinding light.
- (10) That is my sanctuary,
- (11) Wrapped in chain link
- (12) And barbed wire.
- (13) The air is sweeter,
- (14) Tinged with freedom
- (15) And fragranced with memories
- (16) Of a lifetime so long ago
- (17) It has almost been forgotten.
- (18) I bathe in the welcome warmth,
- (19) Cleanse my soul in the newborn breeze.
- (20) I confess my sins
- (21) In the brazen light of day,
- (22) And hope springs eternal once again.
- (23) But then they come.
- (24) My time is up,
- (25) Another hour of life has expired.
- (26) And I return to the depths
- (27) Of despair, discouragement, defeat.
- (28) Freedom, forgiveness, and faith are forgotten.
- (29) I am caged.

Question: 1

What is the connotation of the word "dungeon" in line 8?

- A. The narrator lives in the basement of a castle
- B. This poem is set in medieval times
- C. The narrator's life is dark and unrelenting
- D. The narrator is uncomfortable with life

Answer: C

Explanation:

Is the best choice because the connotation of the word "dungeon" is that the narrators life is dark and unrelenting. A, B, and D are not the best choices because they do not accurately represent the real connotation of the word "dungeon."

Question: 2

What is the setting for this poem?

- A. A prison
- B. A farm
- C. A house
- D. A school

Answer: A

Explanation:

Is the best choice because "Caged" is set in a prison, as can be deduced from careful reading. B, C, and D are not the best choices because the poem is not set on a farm or in a house or school.

Question: 3

This question has two parts. Answer Part A. then answer Part B,

Part A: Which literary device is used throughout this poem to underscore the repetitive nature of the narrator's life?

- A. Simile
- B. Paradox
- C. Onomatopoeia
- D. Alliteration

Answer: D

Explanation:

Is the best choice because alliteration is used throughout the poem to underscore the repetitive nature of the narrates life. A, B, and C are not the best choices because simile paradox, and onomatopoeia are not used throughout this poem.

Part B: Give an example of this literary device from the story.

1) For see answer below is Explanation

Answer: 1

Explanation:

There are several examples that can be used here. Two of them are, "Dim, dark, dank" and "bright, blinding light".

Question: 4

What point of view is used in this poem?

- A. First person
- B. Second person
- C. Third person
- D. All of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

Is the best choice because this poem is written using first-person point of view. B and C are not the best choices because this poem is not written using second-person or third-person point of view. D is not the best choice because the poem is only written in first-person point of view.

Question: 5

What do lines 18-22 reference?

- A. The narrator's love of sunny days
- B. The narrator's desire for a fresh start
- C. The narrator's anger at the circumstances
- D. The narrator's memories of a normal life

Answer: B

Explanation:

Is the best choice because lines 18-22 reference the narrator's desire for a fresh start. A, C, and D are not the best choices because they do not accurately reflect the theme of lines 18-22.

Topic: 2

Freedom Run

Questions 6 — 10 pertain to the following short story:

(1) The rattle of the key fumbling in the lock sent a shudder down her spine. He was home. Megan gulped down her emotions and fixed her face into a plastic smile. With a sigh, she clicked off the late show. The door swung open, and he stumbled inside.

(2) "There's my little Meggie-May." he crooned, slurring his words into one jumbled strand. "Howsh it goin'? What you up to tonight, little one?"

(3) He staggered toward her arms outstretched. She stood, numb and motionless like an observer in an overplayed scene. The same dialogue the same motions. Rehearsed every night for some unscheduled performance. It was familiar Too familiar.

(4) He tripped on a chair leg as he passed the dining table. The pleasant face instantly

darkened as the shadow of impending rage fell. He swore loudly and turned on Megan.

(5) Why don't you clean up this pigsty," he yelled, the words clearer colder, chilling.

(6) In two long strides, he crossed to where she still stood rooted to the floor. She had learned long ago that backing away only prolonged the misery. His hand fell heavy across her cheek.

(7) "Lazy, good-for-nothing child," he screamed. He swore again, throwing her into the wall. "Ungrateful!"

(8) She no longer cringed as the blows landed. When he knocked her to the ground. she instinctively curled around herself, forming a tight little ball of misery. His feet crashed clumsily into her body, and she waited for it to end. In a while, it would be over. It never lasted forever.

(9) When the blows stopped, Megan struggled to her feet. She could taste the tang of blood on her split lip. She could feel the swelling in her eye. She watched him watching her. Then his face crumpled into a broken sob. He pulled her to his chest and stroked her hair.

(10) *I'm so sorry, Meggie-May. I don't mean to hurt you, darling." He sobbed louder. "Please forgive me. my little Meggie-May. I just get so mad sometimes. I won't do it again. Promise."

(11) Megan held him awkwardly, half-heartedly patting his back. "I know, Daddy," she murmured, her voice hollow. "It's okay."

(12) She led him gently to the couch and helped him sit. He clicked on the late show and settled into a subdued stupor. Megan crept upstairs and washed her battered face. She changed into a clean t-shirt and shorts and went back to the living room.

(13) "I'm going running," she announced, grabbing her house key from the table.

(14) He nodded silently. Then he glanced up. "Do me a favor before you go, Meggie-May?"

(15) "What do you need, Daddy?" she asked, knowing what he would ask for.

(16) "Bring me a beer, darling," he said with a wink

(17) She brought him a frosty can, drowning in condensation. He took it and thanked her. Then he was lost in the eerie glow of the TV again, and Megan slipped out into the night.

(18) The cool summer breeze assaulted her senses, clearing the fog of pain and fear and anger and guilt. Her feet pattered, then pounded, then pummeled the pavement. She left the crumbling brownstone—and her crumbling life—far behind.

(19) She ran with the wind in her face and reality at her back Running was freedom. Her aching, throbbing body loosened. Tears stung her eyes, and she submitted to the solace of sorrow. The empty streets embraced her. This was her escape.

(20) She ran for miles, past tall tenements that stretched concrete fingers toward the moon. She ran across a rust-speckled bridge glancing down at the silent, slumbering, still depths of the river below. Across the river, larger houses sprawled on the banks. A few windows still glowed, but most were blank with darkness.

(21) It was time to go home. She knew it, even as every fiber of her body resisted. Winding her way back through silent neighborhoods, she pushed her body harder, gasping for air and aching for rest. As the streets grew darker and narrower. reality began to close again around her heart. The freedom and release gave way to fear and she climbed the brownstone's dirty steps.

(22) Inside, the air was stale and thick. Megan's eyes adjusted to the glare of the TV, and she saw him, sprawled on the couch. She picked up the empty beer can that dangled from his limp fingers and took it to the kitchen. When she came back, she pulled a blanket loosely over him. He stirred in his sleep nestling into the blanket. His eyes opened halfway.

(23) "Night, Meggie-May," he murmured, turning over to face the couch.

(24) Megan turned off the TV and started up the stairs. Halfway up she stopped and looked down. Shadows danced across his features. He looked peaceful, helpless, deceptively harmless. She loved him and hated him in one tangled surge of emotion.

(25) "Goodnight, Daddy," she whispered to the darkness. Then she turned and went upstairs.

Question: 6

What do the misspelled words in paragraph 2 indicate?

- A. The author's ignorance
- B. The unusual dialect
- C. A misprint in the text
- D. The father's intoxication

Answer: D

Explanation:

Is the best choice because the misspelled words in paragraph 2 indicate slurred speech caused by the father's intoxication. A, B, and C are not the best choices because they do not demonstrate the real reason some words in paragraph 2 are misspelled.

Question: 7

Which of the following paragraphs clearly indicates that the physical abuse by Megan's father is a common occurrence?

- A. Paragraph 6
- B. Paragraph 7
- C. Paragraph 9
- D. Paragraph 10

Answer: A

Explanation:

Is the best choice because paragraph 6 clearly shows that the physical abuse by Megan's father is a common occurrence. B, C, and D are not the best choices because the recurrent nature of the abuse is not clearly reflected in paragraphs 7, 9, or 10.

Question: 8

Why is this story set late at night in dark settings?

- A. People generally drink more at night

- B. Running at night is safer
- C. It illustrates the darkness of Megan's life
- D. The setting is coincidental

Answer: C

Explanation:

Is the best choice because "Freedom Run" is set late at night in dark settings to illustrate the darkness that parental abuse creates in Megan's life. A, B, and D are not the best choices because they do not reflect the real reasons for the dark setting of the story.

Question: 9

Why does paragraph 21 say "every fiber of her body resisted" going home?

- A. She enjoyed running and wanted to run more
- B. Running was a freedom from her troubled life
- C. She was afraid her father might be asleep
- D. The route back home was mostly uphill

Answer: B

Explanation:

Is the best choice because paragraph 21 is meant to indicate that Megan did not want to go home because running represents freedom from her troubled life. A, C, and D are not the best choices because they do not represent the real meaning of paragraph 21.

Question: 10

Which paragraph best describes Megan's feelings toward her father?

- A. Paragraph 11
- B. Paragraph 18
- C. Paragraph 21
- D. Paragraph 24

Answer: D

Explanation:

Is the best choice because paragraph 24 is the portion of the story that best describes Megan's feelings toward her father. A, B, and C are not the best choices because paragraphs 11, 18, and 21 do not best describe Megan's feelings toward her father.

Questions 11 — 14 pertain to both "Caged" and "Freedom Run":

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