

PRACTICE MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS 21 – 25

Read the following passage carefully before you choose your answers.

- MACBETH: She should have died hereafter;
There would have been a time for such a word.
To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day
5 To the last syllable of recorded time,
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage
10 And then is heard no more: it is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing.

21. The word “it” in line 10 refers to
- A. Lady Macbeth’s death.
 - B. life.
 - C. the poor player.
 - D. the walking shadow.
 - E. the stage of the Globe Theater.
22. The overall meaning of lines 8 – 12 is that
- A. playwrights understand life better than actors.
 - B. actors record the story of life better than historians.
 - C. the tale of life is sad and silent, but profoundly significant.
 - D. the tale of life is noisy and exciting, but ultimately meaningless.
 - E. the tale of life is dim like a candle’s flame.
23. Lines 5 – 7 compare history to
- A. a torch-bearer giving light to a traveler in the dark.
 - B. executioners preparing to burn victims at the stake.
 - C. frenzied dancers carrying torches and whirling around.
 - D. an angry, torch-carrying mob storming a castle.
 - E. marauders using torches to set a village on fire.
24. The fact that the “tale” (line 10) is told by an “idiot” (line 11) indicates that it is
- A. difficult to figure out.
 - B. fun and nonsensical.
 - C. long and tedious.
 - D. difficult to appreciate.
 - E. especially meaningless.

25. The purpose of the repetition in line 3 is to
- A. establish the time when Lady Macbeth “should have died”
 - B. emphasize the “petty pace” of the passing of time
 - C. indicate Macbeth’s increasing panic
 - D. foreshadow the coming battle of Birnam Wood
 - E. imitate the strutting and fretting of the poor player’s hour upon the stage