

# CLEP Composition and Literature

1. Which of the following was NOT common in early Puritan literature?

A. Poetry

B. Sermons

C. Theological tracts

D. Short stories

E. Histories

**Answer(s): D**

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2. Which Boston preacher was known in part for his narratives of the Salem witch trials?

A. Cotton Mather

B. William Bradford

C. Anne Bradstreet

D. Roger Williams

E. Michael Wigglesworth

**Answer(s): A**

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3. The writings of Jonathan Edwards are most closely associated with which one of the following?

A. The Harlem Renaissance

B. Romanticism

C. Realism and Naturalism

D. The Great Awakening

E. Abolitionism

**Answer(s): D**

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4. Which of the following is NOT a literary device typical of Native American literature?

A. Repetition

B. Sarcasm

C. Incremental development

D. Ritual beginnings and endings

E. Enumeration

**Answer(s): B**

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5. To whom was William Bradford referring to when he used the term "Saint" to describe some of his fellow voyagers at sea?

A. The first sailors to join the voyage

B. Those who died before reaching America

C. His fellow Puritans

D. The clergymen aboard ship

E. The ship's crew

**Answer(s): C**

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6. The author of Common Sense was

A. James Madison

B. Langston Hughes

C. Alexander Hamilton

D. Thomas Jefferson

E. Thomas Paine

**Answer(s): E**

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7. Ichabod Crane is the main character in which of the following works?

A. Leaves of Grass

B. The Gilded Age

C. "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"

D. "Rip Van Winkle"

E. Last of the Mohicans

**Answer(s): C**

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8. Who has earned the nickname "The Father of the American Novel"?

A. Washington Irving

B. Edgar Allan Poe

C. Ralph Waldo Emerson

D. Charles Brockden Brown

E. Henry David Thoreau

**Answer(s): D**

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**9.** Who wrote the first American slave autobiography after obtaining his freedom?

A. Josiah Henson

B. Frederick Douglass

C. Nat Turner

D. William Wells Brown

E. Olaudah Equiano

**Answer(s): E**

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**10.** May not and ought not the children of these fathers rightly say: "Our fathers were Englishmen which came over this great ocean, and were ready to perish in this wilderness; but they cried unto the Lord, and he heard their voice, and looked on their adversity, etc. Let them therefore praise the Lord, because he is good, and his mercies endure forever. Yea, let them which have been redeemed of the Lord, show how he hath delivered them from the hand of the oppressor. When they wandered in the desert wilderness out of the way, and found no city to dwell in, both hungry, and thirsty, their soul was overwhelmed in them. Let them confess before the Lord his loving kindness, and his wonderful works before the sons of men."

In the passage above, what form of oppression is the author writing about?

A. Economic

B. Religious

C. Racial

D. Environmental

E. Gender

**Answer(s): B**

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**11.** May not and ought not the children of these fathers rightly say: "Our fathers were Englishmen which came over this great ocean, and were ready to perish in this wilderness; but they cried unto the Lord, and he heard their voice, and looked on their adversity, etc. Let them therefore praise the Lord, because he is good, and his mercies endure forever. Yea, let them which have been redeemed of the Lord, show how he hath delivered them from the hand of the oppressor. When they wandered in the desert wilderness out of the way, and found no city to dwell in, both hungry, and thirsty, their soul was overwhelmed in them. Let them confess before the Lord his loving kindness, and his wonderful works before the sons of men."

The above passage was written by

A. William Bradford

B. Jonathan Edwards

C. Hannah Webster Foster

D. Jupiter Hammon

E. William Hill Brown

**Answer(s): A**

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**12.** The Bear that breathes the northern blast  
Did numb, torpedo-like, a wasp  
Whose stiffened limbs encramped,  
lay bathing In Sol's warm breath and shine  
as saving, Which with her hands  
she chafes and stands Rubbing her legs,  
shanks, thighs, and hands. Her petty toes,  
and fingers' ends Nipped with this breath,  
she out extends Unto the sun,  
in great desire To warm her digits at  
that fire.

Which of the following best describes the activity of the wasp in the passage above?

A. Sunbathing

B. Cleaning

C. Praying

D. Eating

E. Stretching

**Answer(s):** A

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**13.** Censorship by which of the following helped to determine the content of early American literature?

A. Protestants

B. Catholics

C. Unitarians

D. Evangelicals

E. Agnostics

**Answer(s):** A

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**14.** Which of the following authors is NOT classified as a member of the Romantic period in American fiction?

A. Walt Whitman

B. James Fenimore Cooper

C. Nathaniel Hawthorne

D. Edgar Allan Poe

E. Emily Dickinson

**Answer(s): B**

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**15.** The main characters in the poems and short stories of Edgar Allen Poe can best be described as

A. reckless tricksters

B. streetwise hustlers

C. pious clergymen

D. clever businessmen

E. madmen

**Answer(s): E**

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**16.** In Nathaniel Hawthorne's short story "The Birthmark," Aylmer commits a fatal error when his

A. faith in science causes him to try to improve on nature

B. disapproval of church leaders weakens his faith in God

C. hand shakes during surgery

D. greed causes him to lose his business

E. trust in his assistant brings about failure

**Answer(s): A**

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**17.** An interpretation of the characters Hester Prynne, Reverend Dimmesdale, and Roger Chillingworth as representing Eve, Adam, and Satan, respectively, is an example of

A. irony

B. allegory

C. paradox

D. simile

E. pathos

**Answer(s): B**

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**18.** Keeping time, time, time,  
In a sort of Runic rhyme,  
To the tintinnabulation that so musically wells  
In the above passage, the author is describing the

A. ticking of grandfather clock

B. chanting of the faithful

C. cries of wild geese

D. ringing of bells

E. the hoof beats of horses

**Answer(s): D**

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19. Keeping time, time, time,  
In a sort of Runic rhyme,  
To the tintinnabulation that so musically wells  
Who is the author of the above passage?

A. Gerard Manley Hopkins

B. Edgar Allan Poe

C. Harriet Beecher Stowe

D. Charles Brockden Brown

E. Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Answer(s): B**

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20. How was the envelope in the story "The Purloined Letter" hidden?

A. In plain sight

B. In a safe

C. In a book

D. Behind a painting

E. Beneath a floor board

**Answer(s): A**

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