

Song of Solomon

Multiple Choice

Identify the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

- _____ 1. The novel opens with Robert Smith attempting to leap from the top of the insurance building with wings fastened to his back. This scene first introduces the theme of
a. corruption in business c. racial tension
b. flight d. male-female relationships.
- _____ 2. That same day, this first occurred in town:
a. a black baby born in Mercy Hospital c. a racial riot on the insurance steps
b. a lynching in the town square d. the emergence of the Seven Days
- _____ 3. Macon takes his family go on Sunday drives through wealthy white neighborhoods in order to
a. plan which home he will one day purchase c. educate his children in how to behave like upper class individuals
b. reinforce his idea that he is a successful man d. attempt to collect money from debtors who have moved there
- _____ 4. Guitar traces his hatred for sweets back all the way to the time when his father was sliced up in a mill accident. He and his siblings were offered this as a consoling treat.
a. ice cream c. sugar creme cookies
b. Divinity candy d. soda
- _____ 5. Milkman feels that he shares a bond with Pilate because they both seem to have
a. emotional disabilities c. physical disabilities
b. family distress d. financial problems
- _____ 6. Guitar is first spurred toward his tendencies toward racial extremism at the news of
a. the bombing of the Birmingham Church c. the rape of a local black woman
b. the rise of the KKK d. the arrest of Emmett Till
- _____ 7. As their relationship reaches the 12 year mark, Milkman makes the comparison between Hagar and
a. the third beer c. a broken record
b. a willow tree d. an empty building
- _____ 8. As their relationship matures, Guitar accuses Milkman of
a. avoiding the pressing issues of their race c. extremist hate towards whites
b. being too serious about work d. being too soft with women
- _____ 9. For Guitar, symbol of disrespect towards blacks in general is
a. The Seven Days c. Honore
b. Mercy Hospital d. all the choices are correct
- _____ 10. Pilate was known around town for
a. running a low level prostitution service c. providing underground wine
b. giving meals to the needy d. her saintly, churchgoing ways
- _____ 11. Pilate and Milkman return to Shalimar to
a. bury her father's bones c. continue searching for the gold
b. find her father's body d. thank those that had helped Milkman while he was there
- _____ 12. The gold from the cave is ultimately
a. discovered in the cave years later c. buried by years of rock shifting and erosion
b. found to have been taken by prospectors decades before d. never found

- _____ 13. Of all of the following people, which one does Milkman NOT feel the need to escape
- a. Guitar c. Ruth
- b. Macon d. Pilate
- _____ 14. Milkman cannot understand why black people ever leave the South because
- a. he finds life much simpler and easier there c. there are far more black people in the towns than white people
- b. the people appear to be happy and content d. all of the choices are correct
- _____ 15. Before his death, Milkman suddenly comes to understand
- a. he philosophy and rationale of the Seven Days. c. why Hagar had loved him so much
- b. the genuine love and individuality of Pilate d. the complex and destructive relationship of his parents

Matching

Match these minor characters to their descriptions/quotations.

- a. Reba
b. Reverend Cooper
c. Henry Foster
d. Mrs. Bains
e. Lena Dead
f. Circe
g. Ryna
h. Sing Byrd

- _____ 16. her wailing voice is said to be heard over the gulch near Shalimar
 _____ 17. constantly wins prizes and sweepstakes but rarely keeps the winnings
 _____ 18. provides a basis for Milkman to begin finding his kin
 _____ 19. said, “A n*er in business is a terrible thing to see.”
 _____ 20. lived to be unbelievably old and cared for a company of dogs
 _____ 21. physically retaliates against Milkman for causing pain in their family
 _____ 22. First Corinthians boyfriend who continually owed Macon money
 _____ 23. the subject of Pilate’s father’s ghost rantings in the cave

Match the following items with their significance in the novel.

- a. the peacock
b. the cave
c. the children's song
d. bag of bones
e. Milkman's car
f. Not Doctor Street
g. birds
h. Shalimar

- _____ 24. represents the initial separation in Macon and Pilate's relationship
- _____ 25. represents the reason why people "cannot fly"
- _____ 26. represent the soul of one of the characters becoming free
- _____ 27. represents the origin of Solomon and his place in folklore
- _____ 28. represents a conscious effort on the part of whites to deny blacks any type of social status
- _____ 29. represents a distinct class separation between Milkman and his southern black peers
- _____ 30. represents greed and jealousy for many of the characters
- _____ 31. represents the Milkman's partial discovery of self and identity

Match the following characters to their overall roles in the novel.

- a. Milkman c. Macon
b. Pilate d. Guitar

- ___ 32. represents greed and desire for power
- ___ 33. represents the power of individuality
- ___ 34. represents the search for identity
- ___ 35. represents intense belief, beyond moral rationality, in a single cause

True/False

Indicate whether the sentence or statement is true or false.

- ___ 36. Macon Dead and Ruth's father, Dr. Foster, had a strong, friendly relationship.
- ___ 37. Guitar was the first person to introduce Milkman to his Aunt Pilate and her family.
- ___ 38. The girls' names in the Dead family come from the Methodist Church minister.
- ___ 39. Both Guitar and Hagar try to kill Milkman more than once in the course of the novel.
- ___ 40. Milkman cares for Hagar far more than he cares for Sweet.
- ___ 41. Susan Byrd is arguable the most helpful person to Milkman in discovering his familial roots.
- ___ 42. Pilate blames Milkman for Hagar's death.
- ___ 43. Macon encourages his son to go find his roots, hoping he will find a sense of identity there as well.
- ___ 44. Animal imagery in this story is used mainly to show how people are kept down by circumstances primarily beyond their control (peacock, dogs, birds).
- ___ 45. Pilate's last words were curses for the life she had chosen to live.

Short Answer - 5 points each

46. Read the quotation below and then answer the questions that follow.

"Listen baby, people do funny things. Specially us. The cards are stacked against us and just trying to stay in the game, stay alive and in the game, makes us do funny things. Thing's we can't help. Things that make us hurt one another. We don't even know why." - Guitar

This statement refers to at least two themes from the novel - racial tensions and male/female relationships.. In the space below write one example of an action or incident from the novel that would reflect each theme.

47. "Everybody wants a black man's life. Not his dead life; I mean his living life." - Milkman

Basically, Milkman is referring to how people want something from him that he is not prepared to accomodate.

Give three examples of how this statement is proven true in the novel.

48. Read the following excerpt from Wikipedia:

In [Homer's Odyssey](#), Circe is described as living in a mansion that stands in the middle of a clearing in a dense wood. Around the house prowled strangely docile [lions](#) and [wolves](#), the drugged victims of her magic; they were not dangerous, and fawned on all newcomers. Circe worked at a huge [loom](#). She invited [Odysseus'](#) crew to a feast of familiar food, a pottage of cheese and meal, sweetened with honey and laced with wine, but also laced with one of her magical potions, and she turned them all into [pigs](#) with a wand after they gorged themselves on it.

How might the Circe character in this novel reflect some of the qualities of the Circe in Homer? List at least three statements that compare the two.

49. Read the following excerpt from Wikipedia about Solomon:

The Hebrew Bible credits Solomon as the builder of the [First Temple](#) in Jerusalem, and portrays him as great in wisdom, wealth, and power, but ultimately as a king whose sin, including [idolatry](#) and turning away from God, leads to the kingdom being torn in two during the reign of his son [Rehoboam](#). Solomon is the subject of many other later references and legends.

Respond to this excerpt in the same manner as you did for the excerpt about Circe.

Essay: 10 points

50. Respond to the following quotation - including it's speaker, situation and significance for the novel and beyond. How does it represent the novel as a whole?

“For now, he knew what Shalimar knew: If you surrendered to the air, you could *ride* it.

Song of Solomon Answer Section

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. ANS: B
2. ANS: A
3. ANS: B
4. ANS: B
5. ANS: C
6. ANS: D
7. ANS: A
8. ANS: A
9. ANS: C
10. ANS: C
11. ANS: A
12. ANS: D
13. ANS: D
14. ANS: D
15. ANS: D

MATCHING

16. ANS: G
17. ANS: A
18. ANS: B
19. ANS: D
20. ANS: F
21. ANS: E
22. ANS: C
23. ANS: H

24. ANS: B
25. ANS: A
26. ANS: G
27. ANS: H
28. ANS: F
29. ANS: E
30. ANS: D
31. ANS: C

32. ANS: C
33. ANS: B
34. ANS: A
35. ANS: D

TRUE/FALSE

- 36. ANS: F
- 37. ANS: T
- 38. ANS: F
- 39. ANS: T
- 40. ANS: F
- 41. ANS: T
- 42. ANS: T
- 43. ANS: F
- 44. ANS: T
- 45. ANS: F

SHORT ANSWER

- 46. ANS:
vary
- 47. ANS:
vary
- 48. ANS:
vary
- 49. ANS:
vary

ESSAY

- 50. ANS:
vary