

Name-period _____

Date _____

Worksheet Four Renaissance Poetry: John Milton

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

The questions below refer to the selection "The Fall of Satan from *Paradise Lost*."

_____1. The reason given by the poet for concentrating on Satan is that Satan —

- a. seduced Adam and Eve, the ancestors of all humankind
- b. helped create Heaven and Hell
- c. had more to do with human nature than God
- d. was the most extraordinary actor in the epic drama of human life

_____2. Which of the following quotations from "The Fall of Satan" refers to the atmosphere of Hell?

- a. "No light, but rather darkness visible . . ."
- b. "round he throws his baleful eyes . . ."
- c. "as far as angels ken . . ."
- d. "Heaven hides nothing from thy view."

_____3. In "The Fall of Satan," Hell contains —

- a. answers
- b. lies
- c. worries
- d. sorrow

_____4. Satan is described as —

- a. having burning hands and a mouth like a volcano
- b. rolling on a huge fiery lake
- c. being wrapped, screaming, in flaming chains
- d. having several servants who feed him hot coals

_____5. Who is Beelzebub?

- a. Satan's chief assistant
- b. One of the souls of the damned
- c. Another name for Satan himself
- d. An upstart demon whom Satan destroys

_____6. What theme is explored in "The Fall of Satan"?

- a. Good and evil are related; good has no meaning without evil.
- b. Adam and Eve are not responsible for their actions.
- c. God only occasionally protects humans from Satan.
- d. Man does not have free will in the presence of God and Satan.

_____7. The tone of "The Fall of Satan" is —

- a. frivolous
- b. serious
- c. hopeless
- d. humorous

_____8. Milton's original source for *Paradise Lost* was —

- a. one of the legends of King Arthur
- b. a famous parable of Jesus
- c. a folk tale about the Devil tempting a woman
- d. the book of Genesis in the Bible

_____9. Which of the following phrases from "The Fall of Satan" does *not* demonstrate regular iambic pentameter?

- a. "And courage never to submit or yield . . ."
- b. "Who now triumphs, and in the excess of joy . . ."
- c. "And put to proof his high supremacy . . ."
- d. "The mind is its own place, and in itself . . ."

_____10. According to line 26, the author's purpose for writing *Paradise Lost* is to —

- a. forgive sin in the descendants of Adam and Eve
- b. understand what made Satan rebel against God
- c. explain God's ways to a human audience
- d. plumb the greatest depths and heights of poetry

_____11. All of the following elements are part of Milton's style *except* —

- a. footnotes
- b. omitted words
- c. inverted sentences
- d. ornate language

_____12. In "The Fall of Satan," Milton includes allusions to all of the following sources *except* —

- a. the Old Testament
- b. the New Testament
- c. Greek mythology
- d. Celtic legend

_____13. Milton uses epic simile so that —

- a. readers will not confuse his epic with the Bible
- b. readers will have to work hard to decipher hidden meanings
- c. he can show off his prodigious learning
- d. his poem will match the scope and gravity of ancient traditions

_____14. Which of the following quotations is an example of inverted word order?

- a. "So spake the apostate Angel. . . ."
- b. "The mind is its own place. . . ."
- c. "And rest can never dwell, hope never comes. . . ."
- d. "He trusted to have equaled the Most High. . . ."

The questions below refer to the selection "When I consider how my light is spent."

_____15. In "When I consider how my light is spent," *light* stands for —

- a. blindness
- b. sight
- c. poetic talent
- d. life

_____16. The rhyme scheme of the octave in "When I consider how my light is spent" is *abba abba*. What is the rhyme scheme of the sestet?

- a. *cdc dcd*
- b. *ccddee*
- c. *cdcd ee*
- d. *cde cde*

_____17. Which abstract quality is personified in "When I consider how my light is spent"?

- a. Talent
- b. Patience
- c. Faith
- d. Labor

_____18. What great frustration does the speaker of "When I consider how my light is spent" feel?

- a. He finds it hard to spend his time doing the things he likes best.
- b. He longs for a way to serve God and fears he won't be able to.
- c. Sighted people go on voyages and journeys, while he remains at home.
- d. God has sent him more troubles than he can bear.

_____19. The last line, "They also serve who only stand and wait," suggests that —

- a. many are called, but few are chosen
- b. the early bird catches the worm
- c. there is nothing new under the sun
- d. God has a plan for everybody

_____20. If you make an **allusion** to popular culture, you —

- a. make a contribution to popular culture
- b. criticize popular culture
- c. refer to something in popular culture
- d. declare your love for popular culture

_____21. An **allusion** works *best* if —

- a. it is about sports or current events
- b. it is about a work no one has ever heard of
- c. it is about a sacred text
- d. at least some readers recognize it