

A PSALM OF LIFE / THE TIDE RISES, THE TIDE FALLS

Selection Test A**Comprehension**

Read each of the following questions. Then choose the letter of the best answer.

(6 points each)

1. The speaker of “A Psalm of Life” would most likely describe life as a
 - A. shipwreck
 - B. journey
 - C. dream
 - D. ocean
2. The speaker in “A Psalm of Life” highlights life’s difficulties when he or she says life is like
 - A. a field of battle
 - B. an empty vision
 - C. dust in a grave
 - D. muffled drums
3. What does the speaker say you should do in lines 21–23 of “A Psalm of Life”?
 - A. Always live your life with the future in mind.
 - B. Wonder about what tomorrow will bring you.
 - C. Try to remember the lessons of the past.
 - D. Act in the present instead of the past or future.
4. What is the basic meaning of stanza 8 of the traditional poem “A Psalm of Life”?
 - A. Footprints can tell you a lot about history.
 - B. People who survive shipwrecks learn from others.
 - C. Leave behind acts from which others will learn.
 - D. Life can be dangerous and troublesome.
5. In the first stanza of “The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls,” the poet develops the idea of
 - A. migrating birds
 - B. endless tides
 - C. long sunsets
 - D. lonely travelers
6. What does the speaker of “The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls” explain about human life?
 - A. It lasts longer than birds’ lives.
 - B. The sea ends human life.
 - C. It ends, but the world continues.
 - D. Its limits need to be tested.
7. How does the poet use rhyme between the stanzas to emphasize the permanence of the tides of “The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls”?
 - A. The first, second, and last lines of each stanza rhyme.
 - B. All the lines in each stanza rhyme with the first line of the poem.
 - C. The first and last words of each stanza are identical.
 - D. The third and fourth lines from each stanza rhyme with the last word of each stanza.
8. “The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls” begins at twilight and ends at
 - A. evening
 - B. dawn
 - C. afternoon
 - D. midnight

SELECTION TEST A, CONTINUED

9. The two poems are similar because they
- A. explain why nature should be worshiped
 - B. discuss the importance of death
 - C. depict nature as lasting forever
 - D. show that hope is endless
10. What image do both poets use to discuss human acts?
- A. footprints
 - B. dreams
 - C. waves
 - D. dust

Written Response

Short Response On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions based on your knowledge of the poems. (10 points each)

11. What does the poet's rhyme scheme in the fifth stanza of "A Psalm of Life" emphasize? Use details from the poem to support your response.
12. How does "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls" use footprints to develop Longfellow's view of life?

Extended Response Answer the following question based on your knowledge of the poems. Write one or two paragraphs on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

13. How does "A Psalm of Life" have a more positive outlook on life than "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls"? Use two details from each poem to support your response.