Document B

Source: Excerpt from an English play called Everyman, written by an unknown author in 1485.

Note: THough written in 1485, which was during the renaissance period, these lines carry a message right out of the middle ages.

“Ye [man] think sin in the beginning full sweet,

which in the end causeth thy soul to weep,

when the body lieth in clay.

Here shall you see how fellowship and jollity,

Both strength, pleasure, and beauty,

will fade from thee as flower in May. For ye shall hear, how our Heaven-King

Calleth Everyman to a general reckoning

Give audience, and hear what he doth say.”

\*Judgement Day

Source: Excerpt from Act II, Scene II of Hamlet by William Shakespeare, 1801.

What a piece of work is a man! How noble in reason! How infinite in faculty! In form and moving how express and admirable! In action how like an angel! In apprehension how like a god! The beauty of the world! The paragon of animals!

Document Analysis

1. Who is everyman?
2. How do everyman’s ideas about good times change as he gets older?
3. WHo is the heaven-king and what is the “general reckoning”?
4. What does Shakespeare mean when he says, “What a piece of work is a man!”?
5. What are some of man’s special qualities, according to Shakespeare?
6. How do these two passages show how the renaissance changed man’s view of how he should live life?