2004 AP® ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS (Form B)

'If I do, I know whose blame it will be. It will be missis's, and not mine. Flesh and blood can't sit to be starved to death on a coach-box, waiting for folks as don't know their own mind.'

A servant, semi-upper-housemaid, semi-lady's-maid, now came down with orders from her mistress.

'Thomas, you must ride to the fishmonger's, and say missis can't give above half-a-crown a pound for salmon for Tuesday; she's grumbling because trade's so bad. And she'll want the carriage at three to go to the lecture, Thomas; at the Royal Execution,² you know.'

'Ay, ay, I know.'

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'And you'd better all of you mind your P's and Q's, for she's very black this morning. She's got a bad headache.'

'It's a pity Miss Jenkins is not here to match her. Lord! how she and missis did quarrel which had got the worst headaches, it was that Miss Jenkins left for; she would not give up having bad headaches, and missis could not abide any one to have 'em but herself.'

'Missis will have her breakfast up-stairs, cook, and the cold partridge as was left yesterday, and put plenty of cream in her coffee, and she thinks there's a roll left, and she would like it well buttered.'

So saying, the maid left the kitchen to be ready to attend to the young ladies' bell when they chose to ring, after their late assembly the night before.

¹ the noonday meal

² a lecture hall