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Read "Sonnet 126" before answering the questions that follow.

Sonnet 126

by William Shakespeare

5 O thou, my lovely boy, who in thy power
Dost hold Time's fickle glass, his sickle, hour;
Who hast by waning grown, and therein show'st
Thy lovers withering as thy sweet self grow'st;
If Nature, sovereign mistress over wrack,*
As thou goest onwards, still will pluck thee back,
She keeps thee to this purpose, that her skill
May time disgrace and wretched minutes kill.
10 Yet fear her, O thou minion of her pleasure!
She may detain, but not still keep, her treasure:
Her audit,** though delay'd, answer'd must be,
And her quietus*** is to render thee.

* *wrack* - destruction or ruin

** *audit* - used in a theological context to refer to the "Day of Judgment" when one accounts for their actions before God.

*** *quietus* - the settlement of a debt

Use "Sonnet 126" to answer questions 1-8.

1 Expectation: E.3 Fig. 19(B)

Which statement best expresses the main idea of the poem?

- A** Being purposeful and brave is a thing of power.
- B** Being quiet and respectful is a true virtue.
- C** Although it may seem that some people can control Nature, Nature will eventually get the best of everyone.
- D** Although it may seem that some people fear the aging process, it is natural and should be accepted with grace.

2 Expectation: E.2 Fig. 19(B)

Which statement best expresses the main theme of the poem?

- F** The battle against the effects of Time
- G** Nature's battle against those who don't love it
- H** The struggle to always stay beautiful
- J** Nature's struggle to keep its treasures forever

3 Expectation: E.3 Fig. 19(B)

The poet organizes the poem by —

- A** presenting the story of the boy's life.
- B** comparing the boy now to the boy he once was.
- C** arguing with Nature over the boy's future.
- D** discussing the cause of the boy's beauty.

4 Expectation: E.7 Fig. 19(B)

The poem uses irony throughout to show that —

- F** although the boy fears the power of Nature, he also respects it.
- G** although Nature can be destructive, it can also be glorious.
- H** although Nature can be beautiful, it can also be destructive.
- J** although the boy expects to stay young forever, eventually age will catch up with him.

5 Expectation: E.3 Fig. 19(B)

How does the speaker's perspective differ between the first two lines and the last two lines of the poem?

- A** In the first two lines, the speaker believes the lovely boy has power over Time, but in the last two lines, the speaker warns that Time will eventually catch up with him.
- B** In the first two lines, the speaker believes the lovely boy is fickle, but in the last two lines, the speaker believes that he will be true to his lover forever.
- C** In the first two lines, the speaker believes the lovely boy is spending too much time pursuing pleasure, and in the last two lines, the speaker believes that he will regret it.
- D** In the first two lines, the speaker believes the lovely boy is vain, and in the last two lines, the speaker believes that he will eventually grow out of it.

6 Expectation: E.3(A)

How is the poem structured?

- F** It is composed of alternating rhyming lines.
- G** It is composed of two lengthy sentences.
- H** It is composed of pairs of rhyming lines.
- J** It is composed of one lengthy sentence.

7 Expectation: E.3 Fig. 19(B)

With which statement would the poet most likely agree?

- A** Aging is the worst thing that can happen to anyone.
- B** Aging is something that cannot be stopped forever.
- C** Aging is a way for Nature to avenge being disrespected.
- D** Aging does not occur for some fortunate people.

8 Expectation: E.1(A)

The word *detain* comes from the Latin root *tenere*, which means "to hold," and the prefix *de-*, which means "from." Based on these meanings and the poem, line 10 implies that Nature can —

- F** hold the boy from his lovers permanently.
- G** preserve the boy's beauty temporarily.
- H** keep the boy greedily in her grasp.
- J** prevent the boy from becoming her treasure.



STAAR ELA II Reading made with STAAR Test Maker 1-800-930-TEST

Item Number	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting	Content Student Expectation	Correct Answer
Reading Selection 1				
1	2	Supporting	E.3 Fig. 19(B)	C
2	2	Supporting	E.2 Fig. 19(B)	F
3	2	Supporting	E.3 Fig. 19(B)	D
4	2	Supporting	E.7 Fig. 19(B)	J
5	2	Supporting	E.3 Fig. 19(B)	A
6	2	Supporting	E.3(A)	H
7	2	Supporting	E.3 Fig. 19(B)	B
8	1	Supporting	E.1(A)	G

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