

EMC Literature and Language Arts: Experiencing Literature
9th Grade Textbook

PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. Write about a time in which you forgave someone for a wrong that he or she committed. How did forgiving the person make you feel? (Page 27)
2. Do you believe that parents should be forgiving and accepting of their children, or do you believe that strict discipline is important for building character? Write a parable, or lesson story, of your own demonstrating your point of view. For example, you could write a parable about a father who disciplines his son too harshly and gets negative consequences. (Page 28)
3. Do you believe in destiny—in the idea that the future is already determined for you—or do you think that people create their own future? Explain. (Page 37)
4. Do you think that poetry, or art in general, is as crucial to a person's life as is more practical or technical knowledge? Why, or why not? Do you think being cultured and well mannered makes someone a better person? Explain. (Page 43)
5. What figurative language would you use to describe your attitude toward a tense relationship with someone and your attitude toward a new day? (Page 97)
6. When have you stood up for your beliefs? What happened as a result? (Page 103)
7. What activities help you put aside your worries? (Page 107)
8. Write a journal entry describing problems in your life that prompt you to want to swing from birches again. (Page 112)
9. When have you felt really sad? What did you do to express your emotions? (Page 113)
10. What strategies have you seen people use to express their grief? (Page 115)
11. Do you believe fate, coincidence, or human will determines your future? Explain your answer? (Page 178)
12. Do you believe that people in contemporary society sometimes sell their souls? If so, what are they choosing over moral, religious, or patriotic values? (Page 264)
13. Do you think it is more important to respond to true love or to follow your parent's wishes? Why? (Page 345)
14. In what ways, if any, do you believe in fate? (Page 392)
15. Describe a time when your own good intentions went awry and you unintentionally caused a bad outcome. What might have averted that bad outcome? What could you have done differently? (Page 407)
16. When have you felt you didn't belong or fit in. (Page 436)
17. Do you consider yourself a private, introverted person who needs a lot of time alone? Or are you an extroverted person who is more outgoing and loves to socialize with others? Explain (Page 567)
18. What do you see when you look in the mirror? (Page 572)
19. In your journal, write five interesting questions beginning with the words *What if*, for example *What if I were rich?* Then explain how your life would be different if these conditions were true. (Page 576)

20. What worries and problems do you have? (Page 584)
21. Write a brief autobiographical essay about an event in your childhood. Fill your account with concrete details that will help your readers to feel what it was like to be you as a child undergoing the experience. (Page 587)
22. Describe a time when your love was not reciprocated. (Page 699)
23. What do your friends or loved ones do to return the love you give them? (Page 714)
24. Write a lyric poem using images that remind you of someone you love. The poem should directly address the person you are writing about. (Page 721)
25. How have you resolved conflict in a relationship or put an end to a grudge? (Page 722)
26. Think about the following situations: a neighbor picks flowers from your garden; your sibling borrows your favorite sweatshirt without asking; a classmate looks at your test answers. How would you respond to each of these situations? (Page 738)
27. Have you ever had mixed feelings about a family member or close friend? (Page 772)
28. When have you had to adjust to or recover from a misfortune or difficult change in your life? (Page 797)
29. When have you felt that you had to keep something a secret, because you feared reactions from those around you? (Page 819)
30. Think about what frightens you the most regarding technological advances. Write an essay about your own “nightmares” for the future. Include some thoughts on what might prevent these nightmares from coming true. (Page 890)
31. Have you ever had a dream that seemed so real that when you woke up you were not sure if it had really happened or if it was indeed just a dream? What made the dream seem so real? What convinced you that it was not real? (Page 891)
32. Have you ever participated in group behavior that you knew to be wrong? What were your motivations for joining in? (Page 921)

SPIRITUALITY AND RELIGIOUSLY BASED

1. Write a myth to tell the origin of something in the world around you. You could tell about the origin of something in nature, like a flower or bird, or a technological innovation such as television or computers. You might want to include supernatural elements such as the invention of the gods found in the two selections. (Page 16)
2. Write a prophecy about what will happen next to Fionn. (Page 44)
3. Write a field guide entry for the Salmon of Knowledge. How would you describe the magical fish so that visitors to the area would be able to recognize it? If you'd like, you may also draw the fish. (Page 44)
4. What does the speaker say is sounding in her soul...What does the sound of the trumpet in this song represent? Read this passage from Mathew 24:31: And he shall send his angels with great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (Page 55 the Poem is “Steal Away”)

5. Write lyrics for a spiritual based on a biblical allusion. Allude to something from the Bible other than Judgment Day or Moses. (Page 59)
6. Using Poe's style, write a stanza for a funeral bell. (Page 85)
7. Identify how nature responds to the woman's singing night. (Page 115)
8. How does the woman's song affect nature? (Page 115)
9. Decide whether Johnson's story of creation follows the Genesis story in its major details? (Page 121)
10. Imagine that you are God in the poem. Write a letter to humankind explaining why you created the world and what expectations you have. (Page 122)
11. Imagine you are the first person that God created. Write a journal entry describing your awe at what you see in the world around you. (Page 122)
12. Imagine that you are Friar Lawrence and that you wish to deliver a sermon to your church congregation after this tragedy, to help to heal the pain it caused and to make sure such a thing never happens again. What lessons would you want your congregation to learn? Write a brief sermon on this subject illustrating the lessons you hope to teach. (Page 409)
13. What do mountains know that people sometimes do not? What is the hidden meaning in the howl of the wolf? (Page 471, the story reads, "In wildness is the salvation of the world. Perhaps this is the hidden meaning in the howl of the wolf, long known among mountains, but seldom perceived among men.")
14. Write a contract between the wolf and the mountain that seeks to preserve them both. What does the wolf promise to do for the mountain? What does the mountain promise to do for the wolf? (Page 473)
15. Write the mountain's diatribe against humankind for all the injuries that humans have committed against the mountain. A diatribe is a bitter, abusive criticism or denunciation. (Page 473)
16. Assume that you are the house. Write a poem or short essay describing what you see when the light descends on your exterior and how the light makes you feel. (Page 516)
17. Write a dialogue between the woman and the lake which reflects her image. The lake wants to know why the woman is agitated and crying. The woman tells her story. (Page 575)
18. Write a paragraph on burial customs and belief in the afterlife. (Page 594)
19. Imagine that you are the priest in the story. Write a letter to the bishop of your church explaining your decision to sprinkle holy water for an unorthodox purpose. (Page 594)
20. Choose a machine you use frequently, such as a car, a computer, or CD player. Write an ode to this machine explaining why it is important to you. An ode is a lofty lyric poem on a serious theme. (Page 890)

INAPPROPRIATE QUESTIONS

1. When have you seen or heard of people behaving foolishly because of greed? (Page 29)

2. Did you ever meet someone who vanished from your life whom you would like to see again? Describe that person and what interested you about him or her. (Page 87)
3. Imagine you are the speaker. Write a love letter to the person you are seeking explaining what he or she means to you. (Page 91)
4. How much would you risk for true love? (Page 326)
5. If you were Juliet, secretly married to Romeo and being pressured to marry Paris by parents who threaten to disown you, what would you do? (Page 377)
6. Write a poem or a prose eulogy about your love for her and your feelings about her death, to be read at her funeral. (Page 391)
7. Write an epitaph for Romeo, Juliet, Paris, or Lady Montague. (Page 409)
8. What do you see when you look in the mirror? (Page 572)
9. Imagine that you are the mirror in your room. Write a love letter to one of the objects that you see. (Page 575)
10. The woman by the lake, concerned about aging, writes to your advice column. Write an advice column response that reassures her. (Page 575)
11. Write an obituary for Teofilo. (Page 594)
12. Write an obituary for Mrs. Crowell based on what is revealed about her in the story. (Page 860)