

Read the passages and mark your answers on the answer sheet provided.

**Passage 1**  
**from *Jane Eyre***

by Charlotte Bronte

*In this scene, the narrator, Jane Eyre, is taking up a new job as a governess. She has been welcomed by the housekeeper and has spent some time talking with her.*

- 1 My heart really warmed to the worthy lady as I heard her talk; and I drew my chair a little nearer to her, and expressed my sincere wish that she might find my company as agreeable as she anticipated.
- 2 "But I'll not keep you sitting up late to-night," said she; "it is on the stroke of twelve now, and you have been travelling all day: you must feel tired. If you have got your feet well warmed, I'll show you your bedroom. I've had the room next to mine prepared for you; it is only a small apartment, but I thought you would like it better than one of the large front chambers: to be sure they have finer furniture, but they are so dreary and solitary, I never sleep in them myself."
- 3 I thanked her for her considerate choice, and as I really felt fatigued with my long journey, expressed my readiness to retire. She took her candle, and I followed her from the room. First she went to see if the hall-door was fastened; having taken the key from the lock, she led the way upstairs. The steps and banisters were of oak; the staircase window was high and latticed; both it and the long gallery into which the bedroom doors opened looked as if they belonged to a church rather than a house. A very chill and vault-like air pervaded the stairs and gallery, suggesting cheerless ideas of space and solitude; and I was glad, when finally ushered into my chamber, to find it of small dimensions, and furnished in ordinary, modern style.
- 4 When Mrs. Fairfax had bidden me a kind good-night, and I had fastened my door, gazed leisurely round, and in some measure effaced<sup>1</sup> the eerie impression made by that wide hall, that dark and spacious staircase, and that long, cold gallery, by the livelier aspect of my little room, I remembered that, after a day of bodily fatigue and mental anxiety, I was now at last in safe haven. The impulse of gratitude swelled my heart, and I knelt down at the bedside, and offered up thanks where thanks were due; not forgetting, ere I rose, to implore aid on my further path, and the power of meriting the kindness which seemed so frankly offered me before it was earned. My couch had no thorns in it that night; my solitary room no fears. At once weary and content, I slept soon and soundly: when I awoke it was broad day.

<sup>1</sup> **effaced:** erased

- 5           The chamber looked such a bright little place to me as the sun shone in between the gay blue chintz window curtains, showing papered walls and a carpeted floor, so unlike the bare planks and stained plaster of Lowood,<sup>2</sup> that my spirits rose at the view. Externals have a great effect on the young: I thought that a fairer era of life was beginning for me, one that was to have its flowers and pleasures, as well as its thorns and toils.

Excerpt from *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte. In the public domain.

**Passage 2**  
**from “The Fall of the House of Usher”**

by Edgar Allan Poe

*In this story, the narrator is visiting Roderick Usher, an old friend he has not seen for many years.*

- 6           During the whole of a dull, dark, and soundless day in the autumn of the year, when the clouds hung oppressively low in the heavens, I had been passing alone, on horseback, through a singularly dreary tract of country, and at length found myself, as the shades of the evening drew on, within view of the melancholy House of Usher. I know not how it was—but, with the first glimpse of the building, a sense of insufferable gloom pervaded my spirit. . . .
- 7           A servant in waiting took my horse, and I entered the Gothic archway of the hall. A valet, of stealthy step, thence conducted me, in silence, through many dark and intricate passages in my progress to the studio of his master. Much that I encountered on the way contributed, I know not how, to heighten the vague sentiments of which I have already spoken. While the objects around me—while the carvings of the ceilings, the sombre tapestries of the walls, the ebon blackness of the floors, and the phantasmagoric<sup>3</sup> armorial trophies which rattled as I strode, were but matters to which, or to such as which, I had been accustomed from my infancy—while I hesitated not to acknowledge how familiar was all this—I still wondered to find how unfamiliar were the fancies which ordinary images were stirring up. On one of the staircases, I met the physician of the family. His countenance, I thought, wore a mingled expression of low cunning and perplexity. He accosted<sup>4</sup> me with trepidation<sup>5</sup> and passed on. The valet now threw open a door and ushered me into the presence of his master.

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<sup>2</sup> **Lowood:** a boarding school where the narrator had previously lived

<sup>3</sup> **phantasmagoric:** strange and dreamlike

<sup>4</sup> **accosted:** spoke to

<sup>5</sup> **trepidation:** nervousness

- 8 The room in which I found myself was very large and lofty. The windows were long, narrow, and pointed, and at so vast a distance from the black oaken floor as to be altogether inaccessible from within. Feeble gleams of encrimsoned light made their way through the trellised panes, and served to render sufficiently distinct the more prominent objects around; the eye, however, struggled in vain to reach the remoter angles of the chamber, or the recesses of the vaulted and fretted ceiling. Dark draperies hung upon the walls. The general furniture was profuse, comfortless, antique, and tattered. Many books and musical instruments lay scattered about, but failed to give any vitality to the scene. I felt that I breathed an atmosphere of sorrow. An air of stern, deep, and irredeemable gloom hung over and pervaded all.

Excerpt from "The Fall of the House of Usher" by Edgar Allan Poe. In the public domain.

1. Select **two** ways that the interaction between characters is **different** in the two passages.
- A. Poe's narrator is eager for the doctor to leave, while Jane Eyre wishes the housekeeper would stay longer.
  - B. Jane Eyre hopes the housekeeper will like her, while Poe's narrator is uninterested in how the valet sees him.
  - C. The doctor and Poe's narrator have different opinions, while the housekeeper and Jane Eyre agree with each other.
  - D. The housekeeper talks to Jane Eyre in a friendly way, while the valet does not converse with Poe's narrator.
  - E. The housekeeper asks Jane Eyre many questions, while the valet is curious about Poe's narrator but remains silent.
  - F. The valet tries to prevent Poe's narrator from observing the House of Usher, while the housekeeper shows off her employer's house to Jane Eyre.

2. The following item has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

**Part A**

What does livelier mean in paragraph 4?

- A. more crowded
- B. more active
- C. more cheerful
- D. more spacious

**Part B**

How does the word livelier develop the author's ideas?

- A. It suggests that the narrator is eager for the company of other people.
  - B. It suggests that the narrator is energized by her room and ready for vigorous activity.
  - C. It suggests that the narrator has been given a room that is surprisingly luxurious and grand.
  - D. It suggests that the narrator is relieved to find that her room is not as gloomy as the rest of the house.
3. Which **best** states the central idea of the passage from "The Fall of the House of Usher"?
- A. The narrator's visit to his old friend brings back melancholy memories of their shared past.
  - B. The gloom of the House of Usher creates feelings of dismay in the narrator.
  - C. The atmosphere of the House of Usher is very different from the narrator's memories of it in the past.
  - D. The people the narrator encounters make the narrator worry about his friend.

4. The following item has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

**Part A**

Which aspect of the passage is **most** emphasized in the excerpt from *Jane Eyre*?

- A. the lack of emotion in dealing with servants
- B. the fearfulness of people living in isolated areas
- C. the large and impersonal houses of wealthy people
- D. the difficulty of running a house in the country

**Part B**

Select the sentence that **best** supports the correct answer to Part A.

- A. "My heart really warmed to the worthy lady as I heard her talk; and I drew my chair a little nearer to her, and expressed my sincere wish that she might find my company as agreeable as she anticipated."
- B. "I thanked her for her considerate choice, and as I really felt fatigued with my long journey, expressed my readiness to retire."
- C. "First she went to see if the hall-door was fastened; having taken the key from the lock, she led the way upstairs."
- D. "A very chill and vault-like air pervaded the stairs and gallery, suggesting cheerless ideas of space and solitude; and I was glad, when finally ushered into my chamber, to find it of small dimensions, and furnished in ordinary, modern style."

5. The following item has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

**Part A**

How does Poe **mainly** develop suspense in paragraph 7?

- A. by contrasting the narrator’s familiarity with the setting with his feeling that something is wrong
- B. by presenting a flashback showing the narrator’s memories of the house in the past
- C. by contrasting the strange objects in the house with the narrator’s more comfortable home
- D. by establishing the narrator’s increasing conflict with the family doctor

**Part B**

Select the sentence or phrase that **best** supports the correct answer to Part A.

- A. “A servant in waiting took my horse, and I entered the Gothic archway of the hall.”
- B. “A valet, of stealthy step, thence conducted me, in silence, through many dark and intricate passages in my progress to the studio of his master.”
- C. “. . . the carvings of the ceilings, the sombre tapestries of the walls, the ebon blackness of the floors, and the phantasmagoric armorial trophies which rattled as I strode . . .”
- D. “. . . while I hesitated not to acknowledge how familiar was all this—I still wondered to find how unfamiliar were the fancies which ordinary images were stirring up.”
- E. “. . . wore a mingled expression of low cunning and perplexity.”

6. What does oppressively mean as used in paragraph 6?
- A. cruelly
  - B. barely
  - C. depressingly
  - D. alarmingly
7. What theme do **both** passages have in common?
- A. Setting can have a strong influence on a person's mood.
  - B. Being a guest is made easier by a hospitable welcome.
  - C. People are often nervous when encountering new situations.
  - D. Hope can be revived after a period of despair.