

Read the passages and answer Questions 1 through 7.

## Passage 1

### Excerpt from *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

by Oscar Wilde

*Dorian Gray is a young aristocrat whose exceptional good looks inspire an artist, Basil Hallward, to paint a portrait of him.*

- 1 The studio was filled with the rich odour of roses, and when the light summer wind stirred amidst the trees of the garden, there came through the open door the heavy scent of the lilac, or the more delicate perfume of the pink-flowering thorn. . . .
- 2 In the centre of the room, clamped to an upright easel, stood the full-length portrait of a young man of extraordinary personal beauty, and in front of it, some little distance away, was sitting the artist himself, Basil Hallward, whose sudden disappearance some years ago caused, at the time, such public excitement and gave rise to so many strange conjectures.
- 3 As the painter looked at the gracious and comely form he had so skillfully mirrored in his art, a smile of pleasure passed across his face, and seemed about to linger there. But he suddenly started up, and closing his eyes, placed his fingers upon the lids, as though he sought to imprison within his brain some curious dream from which he feared he might awake.
- 4 "It is your best work, Basil, the best thing you have ever done," said Lord Henry languidly. "You must certainly send it next year to the Grosvenor. The Academy<sup>1</sup> is too large and too vulgar. Whenever I have gone there, there have been either so many people that I have not been able to see the pictures, which was dreadful, or so many pictures that I have not been able to see the people, which was worse. The Grosvenor is really the only place."
- 5 "I don't think I shall send it anywhere," he answered, tossing his head back in that odd way that used to make his friends laugh at him at Oxford. "No, I won't send it anywhere."
- 6 Lord Henry elevated his eyebrows and looked at him in amazement through the thin blue wreaths of smoke that curled up in such fanciful whorls from his . . . cigarette. "Not send it anywhere? My dear fellow, why? Have you any reason? What

<sup>1</sup>The Academy: the Royal Academy of Arts, in London

odd chaps you painters are! You do anything in the world to gain a reputation. As soon as you have one, you seem to want to throw it away. It is silly of you, for there is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about. A portrait like this would set you far above all the young men in England, and make the old men quite jealous, if old men are ever capable of any emotion."

- 7 "I know you will laugh at me," he replied, "but I really can't exhibit it. I have put too much of myself into it."

Excerpt from *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde. In the public domain.

## Passage 2

### Excerpt from *Frankenstein*

by Mary Shelley

*As a student of medicine, Victor Frankenstein tirelessly pursues his passion to be a creator, to shape a being and give it the spark of life.*

- 8 It was on a dreary night of November that I beheld the accomplishment of my toils. With an anxiety that almost amounted to agony, I collected the instruments of life around me, that I might infuse a spark of being into the lifeless thing that lay at my feet. It was already one in the morning; the rain pattered dismally against the panes, and my candle was nearly burnt out, when, by the glimmer of the half-extinguished light, I saw the dull yellow eye of the creature open; it breathed hard, and a convulsive motion agitated its limbs.
- 9 How can I describe my emotions at this catastrophe, or how delineate the wretch whom with such infinite pains and care I had endeavoured to form? His limbs were in proportion, and I had selected his features as beautiful. Beautiful! Great God! His yellow skin scarcely covered the work of muscles and arteries beneath; his hair was of a lustrous black, and flowing; his teeth of a pearly whiteness; but these luxuriances only formed a more horrid contrast with his watery eyes, that seemed almost of the same colour as the dun-white<sup>1</sup> sockets in which they were set, his shrivelled complexion and straight black lips.

<sup>1</sup>**dun-white:** a grayish color

10 The different accidents of life are not so changeable as the feelings of human nature. I had worked hard for nearly two years, for the sole purpose of infusing life into an inanimate body. For this I had deprived myself of rest and health. I had desired it with an ardour that far exceeded moderation; but now that I had finished, the beauty of the dream vanished, and breathless horror and disgust filled my heart. Unable to endure the aspect of the being I had created, I rushed out of the room and continued a long time traversing<sup>2</sup> my bed-chamber, unable to compose my mind to sleep. . . .

<sup>2</sup>**traversing:** moving across or through

Excerpt from *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. In the public domain.

**1** Which sentence **best** expresses a central idea of passage 1?

- A.** The artist Basil Hallward is so entranced with a portrait he has painted that he does not want to put it on public display.
- B.** Lord Henry, a patron of the arts, tries to persuade the artist Basil Hallward to change the gallery he works with.
- C.** Basil Hallward's earlier disappearance from London had caused a great deal of excitement in the city.
- D.** Basil Hallward risks his professional reputation by insisting that his work not be displayed.

**2** How do Lord Henry's feelings toward Basil Hallward change by the end of passage 1?

- M.** He is jealous of Basil's abilities at first but begins to pity the lonely painter by the end.
- P.** He admires Basil's fine work at the beginning but becomes confused by his strange behavior.
- R.** He has little interest in Basil when he arrives but comes to wonder at his magnificent talent.
- S.** He is worried about Basil at the beginning but becomes hopeful after speaking with his friend.

3 What does the word delineate mean as it is used in paragraph 9?

- A. ignore
- B. forgive
- C. portray
- D. fabricate

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

**Part A**

Which sentence **best** expresses a central idea of passage 2?

- M. A scientist suffers delusions from long periods of solitude.
- P. A creator feels an unexpected revulsion for his creation.
- R. An ordinary man represses his human emotions in a sterile, scientific environment.
- S. An inventor persists in pursuing his goal despite criticism from peers.

**Part B**

Which quotation from the passage **best** supports the correct answer to Part A?

- A. "With an anxiety that almost amounted to agony, I collected the instruments of life around me, that I might infuse a spark of being into the lifeless thing that lay at my feet." (paragraph 8)
- B. "His limbs were in proportion, and I had selected his features as beautiful." (paragraph 9)
- C. "The different accidents of life are not so changeable as the feelings of human nature." (paragraph 10)
- D. "I had desired it with an ardour that far exceeded moderation; but now that I had finished, the beauty of the dream vanished, and breathless horror and disgust filled my heart." (paragraph 10)

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

**Part A**

In passage 2, which statement characterizes the narrator’s reaction to his creation?

- M.** He is surprised that his feelings about his creation have changed so quickly.
- P.** Regardless of his horror, he remains proud of his accomplishment.
- R.** In spite of himself, he feels loyal to his creature.
- S.** He realizes that he has sacrificed companionship for his creation.

**Part B**

Select the phrase from paragraph 10 that **best** supports the correct answer in Part A.

- A.** “. . . I had deprived myself of rest and health.”
- B.** “. . . the beauty of the dream vanished, . . .”
- C.** “. . . disgust filled my heart.”
- D.** “. . . I rushed out of the room and continued a long time traversing my bed-chamber, . . .”

- 6** What do the main characters in the two passages have in common?
- M.** They both feel disappointment in a creation.
  - P.** They both desire to create an object of beauty.
  - R.** They both feel a sense of satisfaction about a creation.
  - S.** They both desire to maintain a respectable reputation.
- 7** Select **two** central ideas shared by **both** passages.
- A.** The creators are selfishly unwilling to share their creations with others.
  - B.** The process of creating can have unsettling results.
  - C.** The process of creation is a solitary occupation.
  - D.** The creators lack self-confidence.
  - E.** The creators have an obsession with their creations.
  - F.** The process of creation is more important than the creation itself.