



In Class Exercises Set A

Literature Passage

13 minutes

Adapted from "Twice Told Tales," a collection of short stories published in 1837 by Nathaniel Hawthorne, an American novelist.

Every Sabbath morning in the summer-time I thrust back the curtain to watch the sunrise stealing down a steeple which stands opposite my chamber window. . .

5 By dwelling near a church a person soon contracts an attachment for the edifice. We naturally personify it, and conceive its massy walls and its dim emptiness to be
10 instinct with a calm and meditative and somewhat melancholy spirit. But the steeple stands foremost in our thoughts, as well as locally. It impresses us as a giant with a mind
15 comprehensive and discriminating enough to care for the great and small concerns of all the town. Hourly, while it speaks a moral to the few that think, it reminds thousands of busy
20 individuals of their separate and most secret affairs. It is the steeple, too, that flings abroad the hurried and irregular accents of general alarm; neither have gladness and festivity
25 found a better utterance than by its tongue; and when the dead are slowly passing to their home, the steeple has a melancholy voice to bid them welcome. Yet, in spite of this connection with
30 human interests, what a moral loneliness on week-days broods round about its stately height! It has no kindred with the houses above which it towers; it looks down into the narrow thoroughfare—the lonelier because the crowd
35 are elbowing their passage at its base. A glance at the body of the church deepens this impression. Within, by the light of distant windows, amid refracted shadows we discern the vacant pews and empty galleries, the silent organ, the voiceless pulpit and the clock which tells to solitude how time is passing. Time—where man lives not—what is it but eternity? And in the church, we might suppose, are garnered up throughout the week all thoughts

40 and feelings that have reference to eternity, until the holy day comes round again to let them forth. Might not, then, its more appropriate site be in the outskirts of the town, with space for old trees to wave around it and
45 throw their solemn shadows over a quiet green? We will say more of this hereafter.

But on the Sabbath I watch the earliest sunshine and fancy that a holier brightness marks the day when there shall be no buzz of
50 voices on the Exchange nor traffic in the shops, nor crowd nor business anywhere but at church. Many have fancied so. For my own part, whether I see it scattered down among tangled woods, or beaming broad across the
55 fields, or hemmed in between brick buildings, or tracing out the figure of the casement on my chamber floor, still I recognize the Sabbath sunshine. And ever let me recognize it! Some illusions—and this among them—are the shadows of great truths. Doubts may flit around
60 me or seem to close their evil wings and settle down, but so long as I imagine that the earth is hallowed and the light of heaven retains its sanctity on the Sabbath—while that blessed
65 sunshine lives within me—never can my soul have lost the instinct of its faith. If it have gone astray, it will return again.

I love to spend such pleasant Sabbaths from morning till night behind the curtain of
70 my open window. Are they spent amiss? Every spot so near the church as to be visited by the circling shadow of the steeple should be deemed consecrated ground to-day. With stronger truth be it said that a devout heart may
75 consecrate a den of thieves, as an evil one may convert a temple to the same. My heart, perhaps, has no such holy, nor, I would fain trust, such impious, potency. It must suffice that, though my form be absent, my inner man
80 goes constantly to church, while many whose bodily presence fills the accustomed seats have left their souls at home.



In Class Exercises Set A

- 1) How is the passage generally structured?
 - P1:
 - P2:
 - P3:
 - P4:
- 2) Write the paragraph blueprints for the passage:
 - P1:
 - P2:
 - P3:
 - P4:
- 3) Which choice best describes what happens in the passage?
 - A) A character struggles with his faith due to unexpected events.
 - B) A character describes the effect that his surroundings have on his outlook on life.
 - C) A character voices his resentment against structures he cannot affect.
 - D) A character comically misunderstands the daily happenings of a small town.
- 4) As used in Line 6, “contracts” most nearly means
 - A) hires
 - B) agrees
 - C) develops
 - D) shrinks
- 5) In Lines 16 – 17, the “thousands of busy individuals” are described by the narrator as
 - A) somewhat aware of the ethical value of the church.
 - B) important to the foundations of a society that emphasizes great thinkers.
 - C) evil due the likely immoral nature of their secret affairs.
 - D) lonely due to their focus on private affairs.
- 6) At the end of the second paragraph, the narrator poses that the church ought to be moved because
 - A) it serves as a distraction from the other important happenings of the town.
 - B) on days other than the Sabbath, it serves a symbol of loneliness.
 - C) it encourages people to live shallow lives by keeping them on unrelenting schedules.
 - D) constant reflection on spiritual matters serves to create doubt that undermines faith.
- 7) Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
 - A) Lines 10 – 15 (“But . . . town.”)
 - B) Lines 18 – 21 (“It is . . . tongue”)
 - C) Lines 24 – 30 (“Yet . . . base.”)
 - D) Lines 58 – 62 (“Some . . . down”)



In Class Exercises Set A

- 8) The main purpose of the third paragraph is to
- A) reflect on the narrator's past.
 - B) propose a solution to a problem.
 - C) question the validity of an assumption.
 - D) describe the renewing effect of an event.
- 9) In the passage, the narrator treats the Sabbath in modern society as
- A) a necessary break from an otherwise deteriorating social sphere.
 - B) part and parcel of the progress made by political and industrial leaders.
 - C) a lonely time for pious men and women.
 - D) a time for all churchgoers to feign devotion.
- 10) The narrator most likely wishes that the passersby would
- A) treat their work with the same devotion as they do the church.
 - B) take joy in earthly pleasures to fulfill their duty to God.
 - C) pay more attention to the goodness of their hearts than the conditions of their existence.
 - D) physically attend church every day of the week.
- 11) Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
- A) Lines 68 – 70 (“I love . . . window”)
 - B) Lines 70 – 73 (“Every . . . to-day”)
 - C) Lines 73 – 76 (“With stronger . . . same”)
 - D) Lines 78 – 82 (“It must . . . home”)
- 12) Throughout the passage, the narrator contrasts
- A) churchgoers with other less devoted people in society.
 - B) those occupied with petty concerns with the pious.
 - C) himself with all others, who feign their faith.
 - D) those who think with the faithful.