

Question Support

LITERARY ANALYSIS

For questions 1–3, see page 698 of the Student Edition

Directions: Answer the questions.

- 4. Interpret Elegy** An **elegy** is an extended meditative poem in which the speaker reflects on death—often in tribute to a person who has died recently—or on an equally serious subject. Reread lines 33–36. Then complete the sentence.

One of the author’s thoughts about death is _____

- 5. Make Inferences About Characters** Circle the details that describe the lives of the dead villagers.

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|--|--|
| a. religious | d. are disdainful of other classes |
| b. will stop at nothing to gain power | e. lost the potential to be great leaders |
| c. perform useful work | f. family oriented |

- 6. Make Inferences About the Speaker** Reread lines 117–128. Circle the letter of the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

In the Epitaph, the speaker describes himself as

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| a. ambitious | c. fortunate in having a friend |
| b. very wealthy | d. having a powerful job |

- 7. Compare and Contrast** Compare the speaker’s gravesite with the other graves in the churchyard. Underline characteristics that are the same. Circle characteristics that are different.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| a. has a holy text | d. shows his strong family values |
| b. is poorly written | e. shows anonymity |
| c. emphasizes a humble birth | f. un-descriptive epitaph |

- 8. Analyze Influence of Author’s Background** Read Gray’s biography on page 678 in your textbook. Then complete the sentence.

One reason why Thomas Gray’s wrote a formal elegy about a rural cemetery is _____