

Question Support

LITERARY ANALYSIS

For questions 1–4, see page 1065 of the Student Edition.

Directions: Answer each question.

5. Examine Imagery Reread the first stanza of “To an Athlete Dying Young.”

Why is the athlete carried “shoulder-high” in lines 1–4? _____

Reread the second stanza. Why is the same person carried “shoulder-high” in lines 5–8? _____

6. Analyze Figurative Language Circle the most likely interpretation of each element from “To an Athlete Dying Young.”

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|---|----------------------|-----------------|
| a. “the road all runners come” (line 5) | a funeral procession | the finish line |
| b. “a stiller town” (line 8) | a hospital | a cemetery |

7. Analyze Speaker Complete these sentences.

In the first stanza of “When I was One-and-Twenty,” the speaker ignores the advice of the wise man because _____

In the second stanza, the speaker agrees with the wise man. I think he changed his mind because _____

8. Draw Conclusions Review the inferences you made while reading. What conclusions can you draw about Houseman’s views of youth and aging? Place a check next to the conclusions that are supported by these poems.

- ____ a. Youth is an ideal period without any disadvantages.
- ____ b. Youth is a period of happiness and accomplishment, but it fades.
- ____ c. As you grow older, experience teaches you regret and sorrow.

9. Interpret Rhyme Scheme Circle the words that describe the rhyme schemes in these poems.

slow sorrowful upbeat steady bouncy choppy

How do the rhyme schemes contrast with each poem’s topic?

“To an Athlete Dying Young”: _____

“When I Was One-and-Twenty”: _____