

Question Support

LITERARY ANALYSIS

For questions 1–3, see page 1074 of the Student Edition.

Directions: Answer each question.

- 4. Interpret Symbol** Underline the phrase that offers the best interpretation of what the thrush symbolizes in “The Darkling.”

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a. hope in dark times | c. the disadvantages of progress |
| b. the cruelty of animals | d. political unrest |

- 5. Identify Irony** Situational irony occurs when a character expects one thing and then something else happens. Complete these sentences to describe two examples of situational irony in “Ah, Are You Digging on My Grave?”

What does the speaker expect her husband to do? _____

What does he do instead? _____

What does the speaker expect her dog to do? _____

What does the dog do instead? _____

- 6. Analyze Satire** In satire, a writer ridicules ideas, customs, or actions in order to make a point. Circle the ideas that Hardy is satirizing in “Ah, Are You Digging On My Grave?”

No one wants to be forgotten. Animals are smarter than humans.

People want money more than love. Human desires are all vanity.

No one likes to help other people. People are self-important.

- 7. Compare Tone** Underline a word to complete each sentence.

The tone of “The Darkling Thrush” is (totally miserable/playful and positive/serious with a possibility of optimism).

The tone of “Ah, Are You Digging on My Grave?” is (harsh and biting/lighthearted and teasing/supportive and encouraging).

The tone of “The Darkling Thrush” is (more dark than /less dark than/the same as) the tone of “Ah, Are You Digging on My Grave?”

- 8. Draw Conclusions About Social Context** Explain how each of the details below reflects the social context of Hardy’s time.

- a. The bird in “The Darkling Thrush” is hopeful, but the speaker cannot imagine any reason to be hopeful.

- b. The speaker of “Ah, Are You Digging on My Grave?” has been forgotten by everyone she knew.
