

Session 1, Reading Selection #2

Mary Ann Evans, better known by her pen name George Eliot, tells readers how to decide whether or not a day is well spent. Read the poem below. Use information from the poem to answer the questions that follow.

Count That Day Lost

- If you sit down at set of sun
And count the acts that you have done,
 And, counting, find
One self-denying deed, one word
5 That eased the heart of him who heard,
 One glance most kind
That fell like sunshine where it went—
Then you may count that day well spent.
- But if, through all the livelong day,
10 You've cheered no heart, by yea or nay—
 If, through it all
You've nothing done that you can trace
That brought the sunshine to one face—
 No act most small
15 That helped some soul and nothing cost—
Then count that day as worse than lost.

—George Eliot

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English Language Arts, Grade 10

Session 1, Multiple-Choice Questions

- 10 According to the poem, a “day well spent” is one in which a person shows
- A. courage.
 - B. compassion.
 - C. persistence.
 - D. selfishness.

Reporting Category/Learning Standard for Item 10: Literature/Learning Standard 14

- 11 In the last line, the phrase “worse than lost” implies that
- A. few things are worse than feeling lost.
 - B. some people are incapable of kind acts.
 - C. a missed opportunity will never come again.
 - D. nothing of value can be gained from the past.

Reporting Category/Learning Standard for Item 11: Literature/Learning Standard 14

- 12 A **main** idea expressed in the poem is that
- A. sunny days can inspire acts of generosity.
 - B. people sometimes lash out at the ones they love.
 - C. morning is the perfect time for reflection.
 - D. small acts may have a positive effect on others.

Reporting Category/Learning Standard for Item 12: Literature/Learning Standard 14

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- 13 According to this dictionary entry, which definition **best** fits the word *trace* as it is used in line 12 of the poem?

trace (tras) *v.* **1.** to painstakingly form letters or figures. **2.** to copy by following an outline seen through a transparent superimposed sheet. **3.** to follow footprints of. **4.** to discover by going back over information step by step.

- A. definition 1
- B. definition 2
- C. definition 3
- D. definition 4

Reporting Category/Learning Standard for Item 13: Language/Learning Standard 4