

GED

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GED Reasoning Through Language Arts

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Question: 1

Exhibit:

WHAT DO THE GRANDMOTHERS IN THIS POEM REPRESENT TO THE SPEAKER?

Lineage

(5) My grandmothers were strong.
They followed plows and bent to toil.
They moved through fields sowing seed.
They touched earth and grain grew.
They were full of sturdiness and singing.
My grandmothers were strong.
My grandmothers are full of memories
Smelling of soap and onions and wet clay
With veins rolling roughly over quick hands
(10) They have many clean words to say.
My grandmothers were strong.
Why am I not as they?

Margaret Walker, "Lineage," 1942. Reprinted in *This Is My Century: New and Collected Poems*, Margaret Walker, University of Georgia Press, 1989. Reprinted here by permission of the author.

What does the description that the grandmothers "touched earth and grain grew" (line 4) emphasize about them?

- A. They were given special fertilizers to use.
- B. They succeeded at what they attempted.
- C. They did not need to work much to make a living.
- D. They were reluctant to become involved in farming.
- E. They experimented with advanced agricultural machinery.

Answer: B

Question: 2

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What is suggested about the grandmothers in the line "With veins rolling roughly over quick hands" (line 9)?

- A. They talk mainly with hand gestures.
- B. They are active and energetic regardless of their age.
- C. They are more capable than when they were younger.
- D. They have completely changed the direction of their lives.
- E. They are displeased with their memories and work hard to forget.

Answer: B

Question: 3

Exhibit:

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If the grandmothers described in the poem suddenly faced a grave economic problem, which one of the following would they be most likely to do?

- A. cope as best they could while becoming bitter
- B. turn to others to solve their problem
- C. become too sad to cope with the problem
- D. continue cheerfully, believing that they had no problem
- E. face the problem with determination and spirit

Answer: E

Question: 4

Exhibit:

WHAT DO THE GRANDMOTHERS IN THIS POEM REPRESENT TO THE SPEAKER?

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What does the speaker of the poem reveal in the final line, "Why am I not as they?"

- A. her relief that she is different from her grandmothers
- B. her wish that she had accompanied her grandmothers into the fields
- C. her resentment that her grandmothers don't recognize her strengths
- D. her recognition that she will soon grow old
- E. her concern that she will not achieve her grandmothers' standards

Answer: E

Question: 5

Exhibit:

WHAT DO THE GRANDMOTHERS IN THIS POEM REPRESENT TO THE SPEAKER?

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Which statement best describes the activities of the grandmothers in the poem?

- A. They did little else besides farm the land.
- B. They devoted themselves to writing down their memories.
- C. They entertained each other with songs that they had composed.
- D. They carried out physical labors of farming and nurturing activities of home.
- E. They spent most of their time talking about their philosophy of life.

Answer: D

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