WOMAN WITH FLOWER

CONTEXT CLUES
CONCLUSIONS/INFERENCES
LITERARY ELEMENTS
AUTHOR’S PURPOSE
SYNTHESIS
Woman with Flower

I wouldn’t coax the plant if I were you. Such watchful nurturing may do it harm. Let the soil rest from so much digging. And wait until it’s dry before you water it. The leaf’s inclined to find its own direction; Give it a chance to seek the sunlight for itself.

Much growth is stunted by too careful prodding, Too eager tenderness. The things we love we have to learn to leave alone.

Offspring

I tried to tell her:

This way the twig is bent. Born of my trunk and strengthened by my roots, You must stretch newgrown branches Closer to the sun Than I can reach.

I wanted to say:

Extend my self to that far atmosphere Only my dreams allow.

But the twig broke,

And yesterday I saw her Walking down an unfamiliar street, Feet confident, Face slanted upward toward a threatening sky, And She was smiling And she was Her very free, Her very individual, Unpliable Own.

QUESTIONS

1 Read these lines from the poem “Woman with Flower.”

I wouldn’t coax the plant if I were you. Such watchful nurturing may do it harm. Let the soil rest from so much digging.

What is the meaning of the word nurturing as it is used in these lines?

A. conceit
B. corrupting
C. fostering
D. gallantry

2 Read these lines from “Woman with Flower.”

The leaf’s inclined to find its own direction; Give it a chance to seek the sunlight for itself.

Based on the rest of the poem, which sentence best restates the meaning of these lines?

F. The leaf isolates itself from other leaves.
G. The leaf wants to create its own illusions.
H. The leaf prefers to seek its own destination.
I. The leaf avoids previously established paths.
3 The author of “Woman with Flower” suggests that “Too eager tenderness” will most likely
   A. prompt a loved one to flee.
   B. compel a loved one to be resentful.
   C. amplify the anxieties of a loved one.
   D. restrict the development of a loved one.

4. Which word best describes the tone of “Woman with Flower”?
   F. indifferent
   G. instructive
   H. reverent
   I. somber

5. The speaker of “Offspring” does not refer to herself in the last 10 lines of the poem. Why does the author most likely structure the poem in this way?
   A. to indicate the daughter’s growing separation from the speaker
   B. to suggest that the speaker is becoming a more sociable person
   C. to show that the speaker is describing someone else’s observations
   D. to emphasize the daughter’s diminishing importance to the speaker

6. Which phrase best describes both the gardener in “Woman with Flower” and the speaker of “Offspring”?
   F. devoted, but anxious
   G. distressed, but cautious
   H. attentive, but impractical
   I. industrious, but indecisive
7. Which excerpt best expresses the theme of both “Woman with Flower” and “Offspring”?

A. “Let the soil rest from so much digging.. .”
B. “Much growth is stunted by too careful prodding.. .”
C. “The things we love we have to learn to leave alone.”
D. “Extend myself to that far atmosphere / Only my dreams allow.”
ANSWERS

1. C
2. H
3. D
4. G
5. C
6. F
7. C