

**English IV AP – Literature and Composition**  
**Poetry Objective #16**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

**Read the following poem and choose the best answer for each objective question.**

*The speaker in this poem is visiting the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The monument, inscribed with the names of the Americans who died or disappeared in the Vietnam War, consists of two 250-foot-long black granite walls converging in a "V."*

"Facing It"

by Yusef Komunyakaa

My black face fades,  
hiding inside the black granite.  
I said I wouldn't,  
dammit: No tears.  
I'm stone. I'm flesh. (5)  
My clouded reflection eyes me  
like a bird of prey, the profile of night  
slanted against morning. I turn  
this way-the stone lets me go. (10)  
I turn that way-I'm inside  
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial  
again, depending on the light  
to make a difference.  
I go down the 58,022 names,  
half-expecting to find (15)  
my own in letters like smoke.  
I touch the name Andrew Johnson;  
I see the booby trap's white flash.  
Names shimmer on a woman's blouse  
but when she walks away (20)  
the names stay on the wall.  
Brushstrokes flash, a red bird's  
wings cutting across my stare.  
The sky. a plane in the sky.  
A white vet's image floats (25)  
closer to me, then his pale eyes  
look through mine. I'm a window.  
He's lost his right arm  
inside the stone. In the black mirror  
a woman's trying to erase names: (30)  
No, she's brushing a boy's hair.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The poem is best described as
  - a. a series of interrelated impressions.
  - b. an exposition on a universal symbol.
  - c. a political analysis.
  - d. a wartime anecdote.
  - e. a sentimental reminiscence.
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Line 5 suggests which of the following?
  - I. The speaker's attempt to resist emotion.
  - II. The speaker's sense of oneness with the memorial.
  - III. The speaker's philosophical conflict with the government.
  - a. I only.
  - b. II only.
  - c. I and II only.
  - d. II and III only.
  - e. I, II, and III.
  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Line 9 presents an example of
  - a. allegory.
  - b. personification.
  - c. antithesis.
  - d. oxymoron.
  - e. understatement.
  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Lines 20-21 most strongly convey the speaker's
  - a. condemnation of the woman's detachment.
  - b. realization of his own mortality.
  - c. regret that he cannot forget the past.
  - d. sense of how permanent is the fate of those named.
  - e. awareness of the fallibility of human beings.
  
5. \_\_\_\_\_ What does the speaker convey in lines 29-31?
  - a. A memory of his own childhood.
  - b. A desire to recapture innocence.
  - c. An impulse to accuse.
  - d. A feeling of confusion and guilt.
  - e. An uncertainty about the meaning of a gesture.
  
6. \_\_\_\_\_ The mirror-like quality of the granite walls allows the speaker to experience all of the following in the poem EXCEPT
  - a. self-effacement.
  - b. self-awareness.
  - c. self-respect.
  - d. the illusion of having been transformed.
  - e. identification with the memorialized veterans.
  
7. \_\_\_\_\_ All of the following contrasts are integral to the poem EXCEPT
  - a. happiness and sorrow.
  - b. past and present.
  - c. light and dark.
  - d. illusion and reality.
  - e. fusion and separation.

8. \_\_\_\_\_ The imagery of the poem is characterized by
- religious and historical allusions.
  - aural and tactile qualities.
  - transformation and duality.
  - repetition and contrast.
  - passivity and objectivity.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ The title suggests which of the following?
- Affirming one's innocence.
  - Viewing an evocative object.
  - Acknowledging one's identity.
- III only.
  - I and II only.
  - I and III only.
  - II and III only.
  - I, II, and III.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ The opening image is one that most clearly reflects
- emotional despair.
  - human frailty.
  - self-denial.
  - impersonal forgiveness.
  - insurmountable anger.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ The image of the white vet (lines 25-29) is primarily
- literal.
  - representational.
  - literal and informal.
  - literal and allegorical.
  - literal and metaphoric.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ The images of the white flash and the woman's blouse are a strong example of
- antithesis.
  - balanced euphemisms.
  - symbols.
  - tactile imagery.
  - juxtaposition.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ It is important that the reader notes the significance of all of the following EXCEPT
- images of flight are repeated throughout the work
  - the colors black and white are dominant with only one exception.
  - the poem blurs the real with the unreal.
  - the woman of the final image is a widow.
  - only dead people are named.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ The wall's mirror-like quality may be most attributed to its
- ability to reflect images of things in front of it.
  - tendency to portray society for what it really is.
  - capacity to reveal the true hearts of those in front of it.
  - facility to make an enduring anti-war statement.
  - penchant to mask true reactions.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ The speaker is most probably
- an outside third person.
  - a relative.
  - a veteran.
  - a soldier.
  - a ghost.

**Key:**

1. a.
2. c.
3. b.
4. d.
5. e.
6. c.
7. a.
  
8. c.
9. d.
10. b.
11. e.
12. e.
13. d.
14. a.
15. c.