

## CFA THEME & SYMBOL

1. What is a theme?
  - a. What a story is about.
  - b. A short statement retelling the main points of a story.
  - c. A lesson or message the author is teaching through a story.
  - d. Specific details that prove a point the author is making.
2. What is symbolism?
  - a. a lesson the reader should learn from the text
  - b. something that represents an abstract concept
  - c. a word that has two different meanings
  - d. an idea that is supposed to confuse readers

### Similar Themes in Shakespeare

There are many recurring themes in Shakespeare's plays. In *Twelfth Night*, the character of Viola disguises herself as a boy and then falls in love with the Count Orsino, the man she is serving. In *Romeo and Juliet*, Juliet takes a sleeping potion the Friar has given her to pretend she is dead. When Romeo sees her lying apparently lifeless, he kills himself.

3. What theme do these two plays have in common?
  - a. Love makes people do crazy things.
  - b. Love is blind.
  - c. Never pretend that you are dead.
  - d. Love makes people miserable.
4. Which of the following lines is the **least** useful as evidence to support the theme of the passage?
  - a. When Romeo sees her lying apparently lifeless, he kills himself.
  - b. Juliet takes a sleeping potion the Friar has given her to pretend she is dead.
  - c. Viola disguises herself as a boy and then falls in love with the Count Orsino, the man she is serving
  - d. There are many recurring themes in Shakespeare's plays.

### The Dino Doc

Everything had gone according to plan. The doctor's design team had done their job flawlessly, and the time machine was settled on a bed of prehistoric moss. They'd done it. But now Professor Cho stared into the face of a large Tyrannosaurus Rex with dripping jaws. If he had known of the dinosaur's presence, he wouldn't have sent the time machine to this location, and he certainly wouldn't have chosen "Stayin' Alive" as his dying soundtrack. Curse his playlist!

5. What is the theme of this passage?
  - a. Disco music may lead you to your death.
  - b. Time travel.
  - c. Time travel is dangerous.
  - d. Carefully consider the consequences of your actions.
6. Which of the following lines is the **least** useful as evidence to support the theme of the passage?
  - a. But now Professor Cho stared into the face of a large Tyrannosaurus Rex with dripping jaws.
  - b. The doctor's design team had done their job flawlessly...
  - c. If he had known of the dinosaur's presence...
  - d. ...he certainly wouldn't have chosen "Stayin' Alive" as his dying soundtrack.
7. Which best symbolizes the negative consequences of technological advances?
  - a. bed of prehistoric moss
  - b. Tyrannosaurus Rex
  - c. Professor Cho
  - d. Time machine

## Michael's Music

Michael started making popular music when he was only 10 years old. He made Motown records that made people feel good and want to dance. Everyone looked at him and thought that because he was so young he would only get better and better for decades to come.

For years, Michael did get better. He put out hit after hit, album after album, and he grew more and more popular. His music made people feel good, and they were thankful that his music was in their lives. This made him feel good, too.

Unfortunately, Michael got too famous and too rich. He forgot that he loved making music that made people happy. He locked himself away in his mansion where no one knew what he was doing. He worked at making as much money off of his old music as possible, even though he was already very rich. He made some very greedy choices that made friends angry. He disappeared from the public. People who had listened to him for 20 years didn't know what had happened to him. It was like he had disappeared, and many people grew angry or sad. After a while, people forgot about him.

Then, one day many years later, Michael realized that his life had gotten out of control. He was not doing what he loved and was growing bitter. He decided that he would return to music and make his best album yet, full of music about love and life, music that would make people feel great and want to dance. Even the people that had grown angry or sad with Michael while he had disappeared were glad he was back. On tour, when he came out on stage, he received huge standing ovations. He was happy to be back, and everyone was happy that he had returned.

8. Which of these themes is present in the story?

- a. It is important to find a job that pays a lot of money.
- b. Do as much as you can while you are still young.
- c. It is never too late to turn things around.
- d. People will not forgive you if you forget them.

9. Which of the following lines is the **least** useful as evidence to support the theme of the passage?

- a. Then, one day many years later, Michael realized that his life had gotten out of control.
- b. After a while, people forgot about him.
- c. Unfortunately, Michael ... forgot that he loved making music that made people happy.
- d. He was happy to be back, and everyone was happy that he had returned.

10. What does the mansion symbolize in the passage?

- a. wealth
- b. arrogance
- c. fame
- d. refuge