

NAME:
DATE:
CLASS:

The Pedestrian

LITERARY ANALYSIS: IMAGERY & MOOD

PART I. DIRECTIONS: Authors use precise words to suggest meanings in their stories. In “The Pedestrian,” Bradbury describes the setting by using the word **silent** or **silence** in three different places in the story. Why would Bradbury choose to emphasize the silence? Reread the different contexts of Bradbury’s use of silence in the three places listed in the chart below, and then describe the atmosphere he is creating at that moment in a COMPLETE sentence. After you have completed the chart, answer the question that follows:

CONTEXT	ATMOSPHERE CREATED
PARAGRAPH # 1	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
PARAGRAPH # 6	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
PARAGRAPH # 9	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

1. In the final paragraph of the story, Bradbury wrote that there is “no sound and no motion.” Why do you think he doesn’t simply write as he has in the other parts of the story, that there is silence? (2-3 LINES)

PART II. DIRECTIONS: Read the passage below from *The Pedestrian*. Circle 9-10 examples of descriptive language used.

Mr. Leonard Mead would pause, cock his head, listen, look, and march on, his feet making no noise on the lumpy walk. For long ago he had wisely changed to sneakers when strolling at night, because the dogs in intermittent squads would parallel his journey with barking if he wore hard heels, and lights might click on and faces appear and an entire street be startled by the passing of a lone figure, himself, in the early November evening.

On that particular evening he began his journey in a westerly direction, toward the hidden sea. There was a good crystal frost in the air; it cut the nose and made the lungs blaze like a Christmas tree inside; you could feel the cold light going on and off, all the branches filled with invisible snow. He listened to the faint push of his soft shoes through autumn leaves with satisfaction and whistled a cold, quiet whistle between his teeth, occasionally picking up a leaf as he passed, examining its skeletal pattern in the infrequent lamplights as he went on, smelling its rusty smell.

NAME:

DATE:

CLASS:

***The Pedestrian* Open-Book Quiz**

DIRECTIONS: *Identify the letter of the choice that best answers the question.*

1. The setting of “The Pedestrian” is a city —

- a. resembling Los Angeles in 2053
- b. resembling New York in 2003
- c. in the Midwest in 2103
- d. on Mars in 2103

2. In the opening paragraph, Mead peers “down long moonlit avenues of sidewalk.” As the story proceeds, the emotion of the description shifts from —

- a. dreary to encouraging
- b. innocently friendly to suddenly scary
- c. oddly familiar to definitely chilling
- d. bleak to bland

3. What kind of mood or atmosphere does the setting suggest?

- a. Cheerful and optimistic
- b. Extremely terrifying
- c. Eerie and surreal
- d. Private and serene

4. Which of the following statements best expresses the main idea of “The Pedestrian”?

- a. People should be aware of police brutality.
- b. Writers will be unemployed in the future.
- c. Technology deadens feelings and life in people.
- d. The future will be better for all humans.

5. Which of the following statements about Mead is false?

- a. He has walked the streets alone every night for years.
- b. He is happily married and has two children.
- c. He wears sneakers so that the dogs won’t hear him.
- d. His house is the only brightly lit house in the neighborhood.

6. Something that everyone else in Mead’s city enjoys that he does not is —

- a. watching television
- b. taking walks
- c. reading books
- d. laughter

7. Why is there only one police car left in the city?

- a. Criminals have taken over the city and abolished the police.
- b. The one police car is so heavily armed that it can handle many crimes at once.
- c. There is almost no crime anymore in the city where Mead lives.
- d. No one wants to be a police officer anymore in Mead’s city.

8. Why is there no one in the police car?

- a. Mead only imagines the car.
- b. The lights are too bright to see anyone inside it.
- c. The police are hidden nearby.
- d. The car is completely computerized.