Now is the winter of our discontent
Made glorious summer by this son of York;
And all the clouds that low’r’d upon our house
In the deep bosom of the ocean buried.

Now are our brows bound with victorious wreaths,
Our bruised arms hung up for monuments,
Our stern alarums chang’d to merry meetings,
Our dreadful marches to delightful measures.

Grim-visag’d War hath smooth’d his wrinkled front;
And now, in stead of mounting barbed steeds
To fright the souls of fearful adversaries,
He capers nimbly in a lady’s chamber
To the lascivious pleasing of a lute.

But I, that am not shap’d for sportive tricks,
Nor made to court an amorous looking-glass;
I, that am rudely stamp’d and want love’s majesty
To strut before a wanton ambling nymph;
I, that am curtail’d of this fair proportion,
Cheated of feature by dissembling nature,
Deform’d, unfinished, sent before my time
Into this breathing world, scarce half made up,
And that so lamely and unfashionable
That dogs bark at me as I halt by them –
Why, I, in this weak piping time of peace,
Have no delight to pass away the time,
Unless to see my shadow in the sun
And descant on mine own deformity.

And therefore, since I cannot prove a lover
To entertain these fair well-spoken days,
I am determined to prove a villain
And hate the idle pleasures of these days.

1. In the first thirteen lines of this passage, the speaker describes
   (A) the coming of winter
   (B) the coming of war
   (C) a new political instability
   (D) a change from war to peace
   (E) a decline in morals

2. In lines 1-8, the word most likely to be a pun is
   (A) “our” (line 1)
   (B) “son” (line 2)
   (C) “low’r’d” (line 3)
   (D) “merry” (line 7)
   (E) “measures” (line 8)

3. The images “bruised arms” (line 6), “stern alarums” (line 7), and “dreadful marches” (line 8) are contrasted with images of
   (A) peace and harmony
   (B) the rigors of war
   (C) cold and winter
   (D) manly fortitude
   (E) women and fashion

4. Line 4, “in the deep bosom of the ocean buried,” and line 9, “Grim-visag’d War hath smooth’d his wrinkled front,” both contain examples of
   (A) simile
   (B) onomatopoeia
   (C) personification
   (D) apostrophe
   (E) antithesis

5. In line 12, “He” refers to
   (A) “winter” (line 1)
   (B) “this son of York” (line 2)
   (C) “Grim-visag’d War” (line 9)
   (D) a barbed steed (line 10)
   (E) a fearful adversary (line 11)

6. Judging from the tone of the whole passage, it is clear that the speaker regards the “glorious summer” with its “merry meetings” and “delightful measures” with
   (A) nostalgia
   (B) wistful jealousy
   (C) unabashed joy
   (D) malevolent contempt
   (E) quiet resignation

7. In line 14, “sportive tricks” refers most directly to which of the following phrases?
   (A) “bound with victorious wreaths” (line 5)
   (B) “arms hung up for monuments” (line 6)
   (C) “smooth’d his wrinkled front” (line 9)
   (D) “mounting barbed steeds” (line 10)
   (E) “capers nimbly in a lady’s chamber” (line 12)

8. Which of the following accurately describes a device used in the passage?
   (A) In line 5, “brows” is used to represent the whole soldier.
   (B) In lines 7-8, the contrast between war and peace is emphasized by the use of parallel and balanced phrases.
   (C) In line 17, the phrase “wanton ambling nymph” refers to Diana, goddess of the hunt.
   (D) In line 23, “dogs” is used as a metaphor for churlish courtiers.
   (E) In line 24, the phrase “weak piping time of peace” accurately imitates the musical sound of pipes.

9. The chief subject treated in lines 14-27 is
   (A) nostalgia for the dangers of war
   (B) the delights of peace that the speaker scorns
   (C) the uncertainties of an uneasy peace
   (D) the speaker’s timid, self-pitying state of mind
   (E) the speaker’s view of himself in relation to the times
10. Of the following, the best paraphrase of “rudely stamp’d” (line 16) is
   (A) mistreated, trampled upon
   (B) rejected, unfairly labeled
   (C) misshapen, badly molded
   (D) foiled, kept from deserved honor
   (E) reviled, churlishly abused

11. In the passage, love is depicted in imagery that makes it seem
   (A) trivial and lewd
   (B) essentially tragic
   (C) warm and romantic
   (D) wicked and treacherous
   (E) healthy and natural

12. The speaker probably calls nature “dissembling” (line 19) because he
   (A) resembles a force of nature in his evil
   (B) considers himself unnatural, although formed by nature
   (C) feels that only he can understand nature’s secrets
   (D) denies nature’s influence on him
   (E) denies any imperfections in nature

13. In lines 28-31, the speaker does which of the following?
   (A) Begins an explanation.
   (B) Announces a reasoned decision.
   (C) Protests a physical condition.
   (D) Begins a description.
   (E) Contradicts a previous argument.

14. Which of the following best explains the motivation of the speaker to be a villain?
   (A) He has suffered defeat in battle.
   (B) He has been the victim of political machinations.
   (C) He is clearly intelligent and vigorous, yet considers himself unlovable.
   (D) He realizes that the evil of the world is too much for him and decides to strike out against it.
   (E) As a soldier, he understands the efficacy of military activity and decides to use warlike methods in times of peace.