

Sample I.D. Test

Directions:

Identify 5 of the following 8 quotations by:

- Naming the **author and the title** of the work from which the quotation is taken
- Describing the **context** of the quotation within the **plot or structure** of the work
- Explaining a **major theme** or themes that appear in the quotation, discussing the significance of the theme in that work and **making comparisons** to at least one other work read for the course.

1. GOD GRANT ME
THE SERENITY TO ACCEPT
THE THINGS I CANNOT CHANGE,
COURAGE
TO CHANGE THE THINGS I CAN,
AND WISDOM ALWAYS
TO TELL THE
DIFFERENCE

(None of these is a ten; maybe 8 at the most. What more do they need?)

1a. This poem comes from Vonnegut's Slaughterhouse Five. Montana Wildhack wore a necklace and medallion around her neck with this inscription. It is illustrated rather crudely with a drawing of the medallion hanging between her obviously rather large breasts. This quote is the type of "in", meaningful poetry of the late sixties. It seems like a somewhat insincere poem between the breasts of a former porn star. I think Vonnegut uses this as an example of his view of religion. One of the main themes of the book is the hypocrisy surrounding religion. It seems a little ridiculous that Montana would carry such a poem.

1b. Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse Five This quotation comes from the message the Tralfamadorians have read while on earth. Or it is one of the plaques that Billy Pilgrim owns - I get confused. The tralfamadorians do not go along with this philosophy fully. Their theory is that life is fate. Individuals have no control over what occurs. This theme is representative of what Billy Pilgrim's life is not like. Billy is incapable of distinguishing what he can and cannot change. Also it shows how Billy Pilgrim is too passive to even try to change some portion of his life if he was aware of it. This quote ties in with different attitudes people have toward changing life, or even with just living with it. Such as earlier stated, the Tralfamadorians living by fate.

1c. Kurt Vonnegut is the author and Slaughterhouse Five is the title. This quote in context with the plot is that Billy cannot change anything. Billy repeats this quote because he has no courage to change anything. This quote is like Brick in Cat because his drinking keeps things the way they are instead of fighting to change them. The same with Miss Amelia in Ballad of the Sad Cafe. She has no desire to change her look on life except for Cousin Lymon, but he leaves her so she changes right back the way she was, boarded up inside the cafe.