

50-Question Test on Billy Budd

MULTIPLE CHOICE (Value 25)

DIRECTIONS: Choose the word or phrase that best completes the following statements.

- 1. Billy's nickname on the warship was (a) Guy, (b) Spike, (c) Baby, (d) Fish.
- 2. The name of the merchant ship on which Billy was sailing before he boarded the warship was (a) *Indomitable*, (b) *Rights of Man*, (c) *Victory*, (d) *Spear*.
- 3. Billy's offense as he was leaving his merchant ship for the warship was to (a) go down the ladder before the lieutenant, (b) sing, (c) bid farewell to his former ship and comrades, (d) insist that Capt. Graveling be released.
- 4. Before leaving the merchant ship to return to the warship, the navy lieutenant looked for Capt. Graveling's (a) money, (b) cargo, (c) log, (d) liquor.
- 5. A famous naval hero whom the author mentions frequently in the story is (a) Nelson, (b) John Paul Jones, (c) Admiral Perry, (d) Napoleon.
- 6. The reason why the warship's captain was very nervous about preventing the least little act of disobedience was that recently (a) he had undergone a serious operation, (b) there had been several mutinies in the fleet, (c) he had been getting little sleep and had been having bad dreams, (d) he suspected a mechanical defect in the structure of the ship's hull.
- 7. Capt. Vere's nickname was (a) Sandy, (b) Eddie, (c) Endless, (d) Starry.
- 8. Capt. Vere received his nickname (a) from a quoted poem, (b) from the Queen, (c) in school, (d) at his marriage.
- 9. Whenever he went for a cruise, Capt. Vere made sure he had plenty of (a) extra lifeboats, (b) chicken, (c) books, (d) hats.
- 10. Claggart's job aboard the ship was (a) first lieutenant, (b) head of the sail crew, (c) chief of police (d) captain's office boy.
- 11. Claggart's nickname was (a) Jimmy Legs, (b) Rowdy Rider, (c) Board-her-in-the-smoke, (d) Simple Snoop.
- 12. For advice when he could not understand Claggart's actions, Billy went to (a) the captain, (b) the cook, (c) the old experienced Danish sailor, (d) the lieutenant who had brought Billy from the merchant vessel.
- 13. The author suggests that Claggart disliked Billy because Claggart (a) had read immoral books, (b) had been poorly trained by his parents, (c) was ignorant, (d) was evil by nature.
- 14. Billy had his sleep disturbed one night by (a) Claggart's singing, (b) a summons from the captain, (c) a sailor who was trying to get Billy to listen to a possible mutiny scheme, (d) the loud noise of the evil-looking birds flying overhead.
- 15. Billy's moral quality is symbolized by (a) the flower he constantly wears, (b) the whiteness of his hair, (c) the dangerous fire gleaming in his eyes, (d) his extreme handsomeness.
- 16. Claggart's main charge against Billy was that Billy was (a) irreligious and was giving the men bad example, (b) giving orders as if he were the captain, (c) being sloppy and constantly careless in the way he performed his duties, (d) stirring up mutiny among some of the men.
- 17. The ordinary procedure against a sailor who had killed an officer would have been (a) to execute the sailor on the spot, (b) to put the sailor in jail until the case could be referred to the admiral, (c) to have the sailor whipped publicly, degraded of all authority, and put on half rations for the rest of the voyage, (d) to refer the case to the criminal court in England itself.
- 18. Which of the following would you *most* expect Billy Budd to do? (a) warn a fellow sailor that one officer seems to have hate in his eyes when he looks at that sailor, (b) complain of the food the cook is serving that it seems to be getting worse and worse, (c) be very careful about performing all his official duties as a sailor, but be a little sloppy about his clothing, (d) stop for a while to chat with the captain during an evening when nothing important is happening.

MULTIPLE CHOICE *Continued*

-19. Which of the following would you *most* expect Captain Vere to do? (a) sit rather alone at a meeting of all the officers of the fleet and not feel too sad that no one is coming to talk with him, (b) report, as the Naval Code prescribes, to his superiors an account of the Budd-Claggart affair, (c) grumble to several fellow officers that the cook is serving food that gets worse and worse and that the reason for this steadily poorer food is that the fleet's admiral is not very capable in dealing with naval suppliers, (d) have a sailor whipped for sleeping on the top of the deck on a very warm night instead of sleeping down below in the hold.
-20. Between his trial and execution, Billy is visited by (a) Claggart's ghost, (b) an angel, (c) the captain, (d) the ship's clergyman.
-21. The theme of this story is that (a) even men who generally have good intentions sometimes perform deeds of deliberate evil, (b) good and evil, at war in the world, often offset and destroy the results of each other because this world must be concerned only with the appearances of things, (c) since most situations are truly slightly different from what they seem to be, no one should presume to judge another man, (d) faith in the essential goodness of man is needed if evil is ever to be stamped out from this world.
-22. Billy's last words were (a) I was innocent but die freely, (b) God bless poor Claggart, (c) God bless Captain Vere, (d) I forgive Captain Vere, (e) Captain Vere will pay for the blood of a just man.
-23. Capt. Vere's last words were (a) I have done wrong, (b) Billy Budd, (c) I am guilty of the blood of a just man, (d) Claggart.
-24. The strange thing about the execution of Billy is that Billy's body (a) turns blue, (b) expands, (c) does not twitch or wiggle, (d) breaks the rope.
-25. After Billy's burial the captain ordered (a) religious services held, (b) the decks scrubbed, (c) each man to pay for a memorial to Billy, (d) a day of silence aboard the ship.

TRUE-FALSE (Value 25)

DIRECTIONS: Mark the following statements true or false. Use + for true, - for false.

-26. The captain of Billy's original ship, the merchant ship, had to be tied to a chair before the navy men could get him to allow Billy to leave the merchant ship.
-27. Billy had no possessions to take with him to the warship.
-28. Aboard the warship, Billy showed, before the time of his fight, very great ability in his duties as a sailor.
-29. Billy had never had any fights before his fight with Claggart.
-30. Billy Budd was married and had one son.
-31. Billy was quite popular with the average sailors aboard the warship.
-32. Billy saw a sailor get whipped aboard the warship.
-33. Capt. Vere had always liked and respected Claggart.
-34. Claggart used to report to Capt. Vere every day.
-35. Billy hit Claggart in the Captain's cabin.
-36. Claggart died immediately when Billy hit him.
-37. Most of the officers had very little respect for Capt. Vere.
-38. Capt. Vere believed that Billy deliberately was trying to kill Claggart.

TRUE-FALSE *Continued*

-39. Capt. Vere believed that Claggart's charges against Billy were true.
-40. Capt. Vere attempted throughout the trial to remain utterly neutral and made no attempt to sway the jury in their verdict as regarded Billy.
-41. Capt. Vere appointed the three men who were to try Billy.
-42. The head of the ship's marines was one of the three men who tried Billy.
-43. Capt. Vere was the only one who saw Billy hit Claggart.
-44. Capt. Vere himself told Billy the verdict of the trial.
-45. Claggart was buried at a time and place such that most of the crew members would not see or know about the burial.
-46. When Billy was hanged, it was still so dark that the men could witness the execution only by lantern light.
-47. Capt. Vere had shamefully abandoned his duty and justice as captain in seeing to it that Billy was executed.
-48. All the sailors were mustered to see Billy's body dropped into the sea.
-49. Capt. Vere was wounded and died as a result of a war action.
-50. The newspaper claimed that Billy had stabbed Claggart.

KEY TO TEST

BILLY BUDD

Objective / 50 Questions

Multiple Choice (Value 25)

1. c
2. b
3. c
4. d
5. a
6. b
7. d
8. a
9. c
10. c
11. a
12. c
13. d
14. c
15. d
16. d
17. b
18. c
19. a
20. d
21. b
22. c
23. b
24. c
25. a

True-False (Value 25)

26. —
27. —
28. +
29. —
30. —
31. +
32. +
33. —
34. —
35. +
36. +
37. —
38. —
39. —
40. —
41. +
42. +
43. +
44. +
45. —
46. —
47. —
48. +
49. +
50. +