

# The Lady, or the Tiger? Frank R. Stockton

**COMPREHENSION** (40 points; 4 points each)

On the line provided, write the letter of the *best* answer to each of the following items.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The setting for "The Lady, or the Tiger?" takes place in a(n) —
- A castle in medieval France
  - B fictional kingdom
  - C actual lost civilization
  - D city in ancient Rome
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The king does *not* —
- F despise his daughter's lover
  - G enjoy jury trials
  - H like to play with people's lives
  - J have absolute power
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. According to the king's system of justice, each prisoner has to —
- A fight a vicious tiger
  - B confess or be killed
  - C die for his crimes
  - D open one of two doors
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. A person's guilt or innocence is decided by —
- F the king's daughter
  - G a military tribunal
  - H a royal court
  - J his or her own choice
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The king's daughter is —
- A passive
  - B empathetic
  - C jealous
  - D curious
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The king's daughter knows —
- F which door is which
  - G of the prisoner's plans for escape
  - H the combination of the lock
  - J where to find an underground tunnel

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The king's daughter knows that the lady is —
- A a foreigner
  - B fierce competition
  - C quite ugly
  - D her oldest friend
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The young man "knew in his soul" that his lover would —
- F beg the king for mercy
  - G tell him which door to pick
  - H turn her back on him
  - J marry someone else
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The king's daughter might point to the "tiger's" door because she —
- A knows her lover will be killed anyway
  - B is flustered and confused under pressure
  - C hopes to please her father and inherit the kingdom
  - D thinks her lover will be better dead than married to another
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. What happens at the end?
- F The lover chooses the tiger.
  - G The king's daughter saves his life.
  - H It's up to us to decide.
  - J We find out which door held the tiger.

**LITERARY FOCUS** (20 points; 5 points each)

- **Literary Response and Analysis Standard 3.8** Interpret and evaluate the impact of ambiguities, subtleties, and ironies in a text.

On the line provided, write the letter of the *best* answer to each of the following items.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Which of the following examples does *not* contain verbal irony?
- A The narrator comments on the "perfect fairness" of the king's justice system.
  - B It was the duty and privilege of the person on trial to open one of the doors.
  - C The king refuses to let facts interfere with the principles of justice.
  - D The tiger was the "fiercest and most cruel" that could be found.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. The narrator only implies that the —
- F king is a semibarbarian
  - G king's daughter is insecure
  - H young man is honest and forthright
  - J king sees the error of his ways

- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. The ending of the story is ambiguous because we don't know —
- A what the king's daughter decides to do
  - B the identity of the lady behind the door
  - C whether the king will show mercy
  - D what the imprisoned man is thinking
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. The author of this story uses irony to —
- F confuse the reader
  - G encourage the reader to think
  - H tell us what might happen next
  - J help us identify with the characters

**VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT** (20 points; 4 points each)

On the lines provided, write the *best* Vocabulary word for each item.

**exuberant    impartial    dire    retribution    deliberation**

15. The king believed that chance was completely fair and \_\_\_\_\_.
16. The king imprisoned the man as \_\_\_\_\_ for the horrible crime he had committed.
17. The situation was so \_\_\_\_\_ that the princess was up half the night worrying about what to do.
18. From the dungeon the prisoner could hear the wild and \_\_\_\_\_ cries of the assembled crowd.
19. The princess acted quickly; she wasted no time in endless \_\_\_\_\_.

**WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE STANDARD** (20 points)

- **Literary Response and Analysis Standard 3.8** Interpret and evaluate the impact of ambiguities, subtleties, and ironies in a text.
20. Why is the ending of "The Lady, or the Tiger?" so effective? How does this ambiguity affect the reader? Include references to the story to support your ideas.

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