MASSACHUSETTS ENGLISH 12 · UNIT 4 · 5 QUESTIONS

Language and Style — Practice Test

This practice test was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button to let Brett know so he can fix it.

Source I - The Old House on the Hill

Use this reading for questions 1 to 4.

The house on the hill did not shout. It waited, its windows dark, its porch sagging like a tired mouth. Ivy climbed its walls as if trying to keep it warm. When the wind moved through the empty rooms, the floorboards answered with low, careful creaks.

Visitors called the house haunted, but the narrator calls it lonely. The difference matters: a haunted house threatens, while a lonely house waits for company that no longer comes.

1 **According to Source I, the phrase its porch sagging like a tired mouth is**

- **A** a simile, because it uses like
- **B** a metaphor, because it says the porch is a mouth
- **C** hyperbole, because it exaggerates size
- **D** a fact about mouths

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

2 **According to Source I, ivy climbing as if trying to keep it warm is an example of**

A a simile only

B personification, because ivy is given a human purpose

C a definition

D a quotation

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

3 **According to Source I, why does the narrator prefer lonely to haunted?**

A because haunted sounds nicer

B because visitors agree

C because a lonely house waits for company, while a haunted house threatens

D because the house is new

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

4 **An old empty wooden house stands at midnight, dark windows, creaking porch. According to Source I, the mood of the passage is best described as**



A cheerful and loud

B comic and silly

C angry and violent

D quiet, lonely, and a little sad

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

5 **Alliteration is**

A repeating vowel sounds

B repeating initial consonant sounds in nearby words

C rhyming final words

D comparing with like

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

ANSWER KEY

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. D
5. B

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.