

Literary Reading: Author's Craft, Figurative Language & Tone



Use the matching sheet ID when checking answers.

Read the literary passage below. Analyze the author's intentional use of figurative language, diction, and atmospheric mood.

1. The author describes the clock tower as an 'iron sentinel' and its interior as a 'stone ribcage' with cogs grinding with the 'rasping breath of an ancient beast.' What literary device is dominantly employed here, and what effect does it create?

Answer: B. Personification and animalistic zoomorphism that transform the mechanical clock into a menacing, living entity

Describing the clock using biological anatomy ('ribcage', 'rasping breath', 'heartbeat', 'sentinel') personifies the machine as an imposing, living creature.

2. What subtle shift in MOOD occurs between the first paragraph and the final sentence of the excerpt?

Answer: B. From quiet, meticulous craftsmanship to an ominous, chilling sense of mortality and inescapable fate

The passage begins with focused workshop craftsmanship ('trembling fingers guiding a brass gear') and concludes with Death clutching an hourglass and the bell tolling with 'cold, heavy finality,' establishing an ominous meditation on mortality.

3. The author writes that the midnight bell tolled 'with the cold, heavy finality of an iron gavel.' This simile primarily conveys that:

Answer: C. The stroke of midnight feels like an unyielding judicial verdict signaling the irreversible passage of time.

A courtroom gavel signals an irrevocable legal judgment; comparing the chime to an iron gavel emphasizes time's definitive, unavoidable judgment upon human life.