



Name: _____
Date: _____ Period: _____ RN # _____ 7

“I Am a Rock” by Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel

http://themortalbath.files.wordpress.com/2009/04/simongarfunkel_-_greatest_arise.jpg

Directions: Read the following poem/song lyrics. Then, using the RES method of short answer responses, answer the following questions about the poem. R=**restate** the question, E=**give an example** from the poem, S=**write in complete sentences**.

A winter's day
In a deep and dark December;
I am alone,
Gazing from my window to the streets below
On a freshly fallen silent shroud of snow.
I am a rock,
I am an island.

I've built walls,
A fortress deep and mighty,
That none may penetrate.
I have no need of friendship; friendship causes pain.
It's laughter and it's loving I disdain.
I am a rock,
I am an island.

Don't talk of love,
But I've heard the words before;
It's sleeping in my memory.
I won't disturb the slumber of feelings that have died.
If I never loved I never would have cried.
I am a rock,
I am an island.

I have my books
Any my poetry to protect me;
I am shielded in my armor,
Hiding in my room, safe within my womb.
I touch no one and no one touches me.
I am a rock,
I am an island.

And a rock feels no pain;
And an island never cries.



1. The poets used a metaphor comparing the speaker to a rock. Why do you think they used this comparison?
2. Why do you think the poets used the “island” metaphor? How is the speaker like an island?
3. What words in the first stanza are examples of alliteration?
 - a. Below and snow
 - b. Deep, dark, and December
 - c. Silent, shroud, and snow
 - d. All of the above
 - e. “b” and “c” only

Turn over for more

4. In the second stanza, the speaker says he “build walls.” In the fourth stanza, the speaker says he is “safe within my womb.” What poetic device is used in each of these quotes?
 - a. Personification
 - b. Hyperbole
 - c. Simile
 - d. Allusion
5. In the second stanza what do you think “d disdain” means?
 - a. Like
 - b. Respect
 - c. Compare
 - d. Hate
6. The third stanza reveals the speaker’s feelings about love. What do you think must have happened for the speaker to say, “If I never loved I never would have cried”?
7. The fourth stanza reflects the speaker’s reaction to some life experiences. What is he doing as a result of these seemingly painful experiences? How is he protecting himself?
8. What internal rhyme can you find in the first and fourth stanzas?
9. What is the effect of the last stanza? What does it mean?
10. Why do you think the poets chose to use repetition of the last two lines of the first stanza “I am a rock/I am an island”?
11. Think about times in your life when you have felt it necessary to become a “rock” or “island”. How do your experiences compare/contrast to this poem?
12. What is the theme (life lesson) you learned from this poem?
13. What type of poem is this?
 - a. Narrative because it tells a story.
 - b. Dramatic because it tells a story but looks like a script with all dialogue.
 - c. Lyric because it shares the speaker’s thoughts and feelings.
 - d. Ballad because it is set to music.