1. The author of “Slam: Performance Poetry Lives On” uses subheadings to separate sections of the essay. Why did she use varying color and type size in the subheadings?

A. The larger, darker words rhyme.
B. The larger, darker words are more important.
C. The larger, darker words are defined in the glossary.
D. The larger, darker words look better than the little words.

LA.910.6.1.1
The correct answer is B. Options A, C, and D are incorrect because they represent incorrect analysis and interpretation of text features.

Option A is incorrect because the larger, darker words in the subheadings do not rhyme. Option B is correct because the larger, darker words are the most important words in the subheadings: Poetry (page 158), Slam (page 160), Spoken Word/Written Word (page 161) Beating/Sound (page 162), and Poetry/People (page 163). Option C is incorrect because the larger, darker words are not words defined in the textbook glossary. Option D is incorrect because the words were not made darker and larger so that they would look better; their appearance was changed to create emphasis on the words and their concepts.

2. Read this sentence from the essay.

“A poetry slam is like a lyrical boxing match that pits poets against other poets in a bout,” according to journalist Shilanda L. Woolridge.

What does the author mean by the phrase **lyrical boxing match** in this sentence?

F. a poetry Slam is really a contest of words
G. poets fight each other for the right to perform
H. the Slam referee counts to 10 before the audience can applaud
I. Slam poets only recite lyrics to songs they have written

LA.910.1.6.8
The correct answer is F. Options G, H, and I are incorrect because they represent incorrect meanings of assessed phrases found within the excerpted text.

The excerpt is found on page 160. Macmillandictionary.com defines *lyrical* as expressing beauty and strong emotion. **Option F** is correct because in a boxing match one opponent is in a contest with another opponent and they have a battle of physical blows. In a poetry slam, the opponents are poets and the contest is one of words, not jabs or punches. **Option G** is incorrect because poets do not fight for the right to perform. **Option H** is incorrect because there is no Slam
referee—as the reader learns on page 160 poets “…recite their poems for an audience that boos and cheers as it votes on the best performers.” **Option I** is incorrect because Slam poets recite poems which may or may not become song lyrics.

3. Read this sentence from the essay.

> “Ginsberg and other Beat poets such as Jack Kerouac, were heavily influenced by jazz music. This is most obvious if you listen closely to the music of their words as you read them aloud.”

Which statement BEST describes the author’s attitude toward Beat poets?

A. Beat poets only wrote the lyrics to jazz songs.  
B. Beat poets wrote poetry that flowed like jazz music.  
C. Beat poets also played instruments in jazz bands.  
D. Beat poets read their songs aloud to hip-hop tunes.

**LA.910.1.7.2**  
The correct answer is **B**. Options A, C, and D are incorrect because they represent facts and details that do not support the author’s purpose or represent the author’s perspective.

The excerpt is found on page 163. Background information on page 162 includes, “In the 1950s and ‘60s, the Beat poets brought poetry directly to the people using the ancient ways of the traveling storyteller. Like today’s slam artists, the Beats came to be known for their unique performance styles.” **Option A** is incorrect because Beat poets did not just write lyrics to jazz songs. **Option B** is correct because as the excerpt says, Beat poets wrote poetry that flowed like jazz music. **Option C** is incorrect because Beat poets read their own poems; they did not play instruments in jazz bands. **Option D** is incorrect because as the reader learns on page 163, “Although the Beat poets were more influenced by jazz, slam poets have turned to hip-hop for inspiration.” Beat poets were reciting their poems in the 1950s and 1960s while the foundation of hip-hop began in the 1970’s (page 136).

4. Modern Slam poetry owes it roots to many people EXCEPT

F. Homer, author of “Odyssey”  
G. Shakespeare, author of plays and sonnets  
H. Allen Ginsberg, author of “Howl”  
I. Robert Frost, author of “The Road Not Taken”

**LA.910.1.7.3**  
The correct answer is **I**. Options F, G, and H are incorrect because they represent correct details that support the main idea.

**Option F** is incorrect because on page 161 the reader learns, “Over the course of history, there has been a change from the oral tradition to a written one. The earliest example of written poetry is Homer’ Odyssey.” **Option G** is incorrect because as the reader learns on pages 160, 161, and 162 Shakespeare did play a part in the advent of slam. “Really, though, the roots of slam can be
traced from hip-hop back to the first storytellers, through Shakespeare, and to the Beat poets of the 1960s.” **Option H** is incorrect because as the reader learns on pages 162 and 163, Ginsberg is one of the “…most celebrated poets of the Beat generation.” The caption under the picture on page 162 tells the reader that Ginsberg once said, “Poetry is the one place where people can speak their original human mind. It is the outlet for people to say in public what is known in private.” **Option I** is correct because Robert Frost, although a poet, is not a precursor of slam poetry, and is never mentioned in the essay.

5. Which BEST expresses one reason why the author of “Slam: Performance Poetry Lives On” used different font or typeface color in the picture captions?

A. Information in the captions is repeated within the body of the essay.  
B. White type stands out on top of the colored space by the picture. 
C. The information in the captions is less important than the rest of the essay.  
D. The captions function as an introduction to the next section of the essay.

**LA.910.6.1.1**
The correct answer is **B**. Options A, C, and D are incorrect because they represent incorrect analysis and interpretation of text features.

**Option A** is incorrect because the information in the captions is not repeated within the body of the essay; however, this fact is not a reason to use different font or typeface color in the captions. **Option B** is correct because the illustrations all have a colored background, and the use of white type helps to highlight the caption because it is different in font and color from the body of the essay. **Option C** is incorrect because the information in the captions is as important as that in the body of the selection. **Option D** is incorrect because the captions do not serve as an introduction to the next section, but, instead they provide additional information about the section of the essay in which they appear.
6. To show how she feels about what creativity means to her, the author uses many words EXCEPT

F. dance  
G. sing  
H. hazard  
I. magnificence

**LA.910.1.7.2**  
The correct answer is **H**. Options F, G, and I are incorrect because they represent correct interpretation of the author’s purpose or perspective.

**Option F** is incorrect because *dance* which appears on page 169 in lines 17 and 18 is used to express how the author feels about creativity—she wants to dance and have the whole world dance with her. **Option G** is incorrect because *sing* which appears on page 170 in line 19 is used to show the author’s expansive wish to be creative—she wants to sing as sweetly as the angels. **Option H** is correct because *hazard* which appears on page 169 in line 3 to say that she has so much to see that she doesn’t want to blink for fear of missing something. **Option I** is incorrect because *magnificence* which is found on page 169 in line 17 is used to show the grandeur with which she wants to dance so that all will want to join her in her dance.

7. Which phrase does the author use to tell the reader that she wants her poems to be remembered?

A. “I want to sing like the angels”  
B. “the air caresses my flesh”  
C. “and have the loveliness of my song drip out of the corners of my mouth”  
D. “and have a piece of my song glued into their minds”

**LA.910.1.6.8**  
The correct answer is **D**. Options A, B, and C are incorrect because they represent incorrect meanings of assessed phrases found within the poem.

**Option A** is incorrect because this line which appears on page 170 in line 19 is not the author’s way of saying that she wants her poems to be remembered. In this line she is talking about the quality of her words and the affect they would have on her audience. **Option B** is incorrect because this line which appears on page 169 in line 8 is not the author’s way of saying that she wants her poems to be remembered. In this line she is talking about how aware she is of her surroundings. **Option C** is incorrect because this line which appears on page 170 in line 20 is not the author’s way of saying that she wants her poems to be remembered. In this line the author is talking about how smoothly her lines will flow as she recites them. **Option D** is correct because this line which appears on page 170 in line 24 is the author’s way of saying that she wants her words remembered by her audience.
8. Which statement BEST expresses the main idea of the poem?

- F. The author feels great excitement about her creativity.
- G. The author enjoys dancing with her eyes closed.
- H. The author is pleased at being able to sing in front of an audience.
- I. The author fears speaking her inner thoughts and feelings aloud.

LA.910.1.7.3
The correct answer is F. Options G, H, and I are incorrect because they represent incorrect interpretations of the main idea.

Option F is correct because this is the main idea of the poem. The author of this slam poem uses imagery and emotion to portray the excitement she feels about creativity. Option G is incorrect because in the poem the author does not talk about dancing with her eyes closed. Option H is incorrect because this is not the main idea of the poem which is her joy at being able to create and express her feelings. Option I is incorrect because this is not the main idea of the poem which is the joy she feels at being able to experience and share her thoughts and feelings.


- A. on Broadway
- B. in a coffeehouse
- C. alone in her room
- D. in a classroom

LA.910.1.7.3
The correct answer is C. Options A, B, and D are incorrect because they represent correct distractors based on the text.

Option A is incorrect because Lauren Brown could perform “Euphoria” on Broadway. On page 164 the reader learns, “Def Poetry Jam on Broadway [is] dedicated to proving that poetry needn’t be ancient or stodgy, but that it can still prove...inspiring to the current generation.” Option B is incorrect because Lauren Brown could perform “Euphoria” in a coffeehouse. (Page 164) Option C is correct because Lauren Brown would not likely perform “Euphoria” alone in her room because the poem is all about sharing her images and emotions with others. Option D is incorrect because Lauren Brown could perform “Euphoria” in a classroom. (Page 164)

10. Using information you learned by reading “Slam: Performance Poetry Lives On” at the next performance of “Euphoria” Lauren Brown may be joined by some other poets EXCEPT

- F. Ursula Rucker
- G. Matthew Murray
- H. Kai Zhang
- I. Ryler Dustin

Hampton Brown Edge Level B, Unit 2, Cluster 3
LA.910.1.7.3
The correct answer is G. Options F, H, and I are incorrect because they represent correct distractors based on the text.

Option F is incorrect because Ursula Rucker is a Slam poet. As the reader learns in the caption on page 163, “Ursula Rucker is considered one of the pioneers of Slam poetry. She made her first spoken-word recording in 1994, and has performed all over the world.” Option G is correct because Matthew Murray is not a Slam poet; as the reader learns on page 164, he is a theater critic. Option H is incorrect because as the reader learns on page 158 Kai Zhang is a 16-year-old slam poet. An example of his work is in the caption on page 158. Option I is incorrect because as the reader learns on the caption on page 159, Ryler Dustin is a slam poet.