

## Answer Key for the Neoclassical Period

### Being Chased by the King by Frances Burney

#### 1. ABOUT WORDS AND WORD ORIGINS

Students should know the Latin root *bene* and the English words that are derived from it, including *benefit*, *benefactor*, *benediction*, *beneficent*, *beneficiary*, *benevolent*, and *benign*.

#### 2. VOCABULARY AND EXERCISES

1. animation
2. countenance
3. salutation
4. repugnance
5. air
6. malady
7. volubility
8. compliance
9. propriety
10. benignity

#### 3. READING COMPREHENSION

1. d
2. b
3. b
4. a
5. e
6. e
7. b
8. c
9. d
10. d

#### 4. QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Where did John Willis, one of the brother physicians who attended George III, say the king was going to be the day that Frances Burney saw him? Where did Frances Burney therefore take her walk?
2. Explain why Frances Burney did not want to see the king under any circumstances? When she saw the king, she started running furiously to try to get away from him. What eventually forced Miss Burney to stop?
3. What did the king do when he finally caught up to Burney after she stopped? What was Miss Burney's response? How did the physicians respond?
4. Write down two or three topics that the king addressed in talking to Miss Burney?
5. What was Miss Burney's opinion of the king's mental state?

#### 5. WRITING PROMPT

Tawney Rachel by Hannah More

##### 1. ABOUT WORDS AND WORD ORIGINS

Students should know the synonyms for *charlatan*, including *fake*, *fraud*, *scam artist*, *trickster* and *phony*, and *mountebank*.

##### 2. VOCABULARY AND EXERCISES

1. infallible
2. constables
3. barbarous
4. blunder
5. reprimanded
6. pretense
7. contrived
8. strewn
9. oracle
10. cant

### 3. READING COMPREHENSION

1. a
2. d
3. e
4. e
5. c
6. a
7. b
8. c
9. d
10. e

### Selected Poems by Isaac Watts

#### THE MESSIAH'S COMING AND KINGDOM

1. What general reason for rejoicing is given in stanza 1? Also, give specific reasons mentioned in later stanzas why they should rejoice.  
*The Lord has come to earth and the people of the world may receive Him with rejoicing because he this righteous and loving King reigns. In coming, he abolishes the curse (of Adam) and rules the world with truth and grace..*
2. Why does the poet mention thorns infesting the ground?  
*With the coming of the King (Jesus Christ), the curse of sin and the sorrows that ensue from it will be abolished. The thorns represent the effect of the curse. (Genesis 3 mentions that part of the curse of Adam's disobedience is that thorns and thistles would grow out of the ground and that Adam would consume the fruit of his labor in sorrow.)*
3. What does the poet mean when he says, "Let heaven and nature sing"?  
*The poet is using personification to express the supreme joy that attends the coming of the King.*

#### HEAVENLY JOY ON EARTH

4. According to the poet, what is religion NOT designed for?  
*Religion was not designed to decrease our pleasure in this life.*

5. According to the poem, what are the reasons for joy on earth?  
*To know and commune with God gives man joy.*
6. How does the poet show the awesomeness of God?  
*God is the ruler of the world and nature is his: God “thunders when he please.”*
7. Explain the meaning of the last stanza of the poem.  
*Because God’s people know him, they should not be sorrowful, but rejoice as they make their pilgrimage to heaven.*

#### PRAISE FOR CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

8. Give three specific examples of God’s creation given in the poem.  
*God created the mountains, the flowing seas and the lofty skies.*
9. Give one specific example of God’s providence given in the poem.  
*The numerous creatures of the earth are cared for by God.*
10. What is the moral or lesson given in the conclusion of the poem regarding God’s creation and providence?  
*The moral lesson is that as we are aware of God’s presence, we should be mindful of Him at all times.*

### Elegy by Thomas Gray

#### 1. ABOUT WORDS AND WORD ORIGINS

The word *elegy* in the title of Gray’s work is from Greek, as many words in the English language dealing with poetry, such as *rhyme*, *rhythm*, *meter*, *epic*, *lyric* (taken from the word *lyre*, referring to the stringed instrument), and *ode* (meaning “song”).

#### 2. VOCABULARY AND EXERCISES

##### EXERCISE 17.1

1. e
2. a
3. d
4. b
5. b
6. c

7. a
8. e
9. b
10. d

### 3. READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

#### EXERCISE 17.2

1. d
2. b
3. b
4. a
5. a
6. d
7. c
8. a
9. e
10. e

### 4. LITERARY TERMS: TONE AND ELEGY

Students should understand the word tone and apply it to Thomas Gray's poem. The tone of the poem may be described as *serious* as well as *laudatory*, or praising, of the common person.

# Lesson 18

## Elegy by Oliver Goldsmith

### 1. QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. The tone of a work is the author's attitude toward what he is writing. Is the tone of this ballad humorous or serious?
2. What is suggested by the last two lines of stanza 2: "That still a godly race he ran, When'er he went to pray"? Is the statement praising or criticizing the man?
3. What is suggested about the man's charity in the third stanza? Again, are the lines praising or criticizing the man?
4. Are the people right in assuming that the dog had lost its wits to bite the "good man"?
5. What is the "wonder" that "came to light"? What is suggested by the word wonder? How is the ending of the poem ironic? What does the conclusion of the poem suggest about the man and the dog? What is the meaning of the ballad?

## John Gilpin by William Cowper

### 1. READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. e
2. a
3. b
4. c
5. e
6. e
7. d
8. b
9. b
- 10.a

## Letters by William Cowper

In the 18th and early 19th century when letters were read for entertainment, William Cowper's letters were published and popularly read. Some scholars consider him one of the best letter writers of English history.

### 1. READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. b
2. c
3. b
4. c
5. a
6. b
7. e
8. a
9. c
- 10.a

### 2. QUESTIONS FO CLASS DISCUSSION

#### *A Laugh That Hurts Nobody*

11. What good things does William Cowper say about his own poem on the "history of John Gilpin"? How does he contrast his poems with the satires of his day?

*William Cowper expresses his surprise that his poem "John Gilpin" was published and that readers found it so humorous. He contrasts his poem—an innocent poem that makes fun of no one—with the satires of the day which were mocking and bitterly critical of people. Cowper says that he does not agree with Swift's motto "Vive la bagatelle," or "Long live the little [satirical] piece of verse," saying that its wisdom did not "come from above," meaning it is neither a moral nor good one.*

12. According to William Cowper, why did he write "John Gilpin," or any other funny poem? Apparently in what mood did William Cowper write "John Gilpin"?

*William Cowper reveals a very unusual circumstance regarding his*

writing "John Gilpin." The hilarious poem was written while he was suffering depression. Cowper says that he would not have written it unless he had been afflicted.

13. What is the meaning of his analogy of the mariners on the ship?

*It would seem very strange for mariners to dance if their ship were in peril. Cowper's writing John Gilpin in a melancholy mood seems just as strange.*

#### *Village Politicians*

14. What does William Cowper think of the conduct of nations in general? What does he mean when he says that "Nations may be guilty of a conduct that would render an individual infamous forever...?"

*William Cowper speaks very negatively about the nations of the world. They cause great harm in their "clashing," or war, but "hold their heads high" in pride and "talk of their own glory."*

15. What does William Cowper think of the conduct of his own country in the American Revolution?

*Because of its generals, England acted with cruel hatred in the war.*

16. William Cowper praises America for its desire for liberty, but criticizes it for its conduct in the war. What two instances of poor conduct does he mention?

*William Cowper criticizes America for having made England their enemy and associating with its enemy (France and Spain) to win the war.*

17. According to William Cowper, what part did Spain, Holland and France play in the American Revolution? Were they just helping America achieve its liberty or did they have other motivations in entering the conflict?

*According to William Cowper, Spain and France acted treacherously, not nobly, in aiding America. They had ulterior motives, such as "possessing the jewel," meaning making America their friend in order to get what they want politically.*



# Lesson 19

## The New Neighbor by Jane Austin

### 1. READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. c
2. d
3. e
4. a
5. b
6. c
7. e
8. d
9. c
10. c

## Selected Poems by Robert Burns

### 1. READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. a
2. c
3. d
4. b
5. b
6. c
7. c
8. d
9. a
10. c