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# Multiple Choice Strategies

## MC Monday & Question Stems

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<http://tinyurl.com/mcMonday>

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# Multiple Choice Monday

## Make this activity a routine

- weekly or every other week
- 20-25 minute activity

## Applies to ANY text.

### AP Practice Prompt

- Poetry Question #1
- Analysis Question #2

### Current Classroom Novel

- Open Question #3

# AP Practice Test Question: John Donne

- (20) O more than moon,  
Draw not up seas to drown me in thy sphere;  
Weep me not dead in thine arms, but forbear  
To teach the sea what it may do too soon.  
Let not the wind  
Example find
- (25) To do me more harm than it purposeth;  
Since thou and I sigh one another's breath,  
Whoe'er sighs most is cruelest, and hastes the other's death.

What does the speaker ascribe to his beloved in lines 20-25?

- a. The power to break his heart.
- b. The power to kill him-LITERAL
- c. The power to influence the natural elements-MISREADING
- d. The power to restrain her grief
- e. The right to seek other lovers-DISTRACTOR

# Student Samples: 1984 by George Orwell

7 March 2016

1. On page 208 of Orwell's 1984, "the Inner Party is described as the brain of the State" is a metaphorical way of saying...

- A) The Inner Party is the only party that matters.
- B) The Inner party is the most complex party.
- C) The Inner party is the smartest Party.
- D) The Inner party is the controlling force behind the entire State.
- E) The Inner party is only a small portion of the entire State.

2. The structure of the following sentence is best described as... "He had the feeling that he could get inside it, and that in fact he was inside it, along with the mahogany bed and the gateleg table and the clock and the steel engraving and the paperweight itself" (147).

- A) cumulative in sentence structure.
- B) parallel in sentence structure.
- C) periodic in sentence structure.
- D) redundant in sentence structure.
- E) there is no effect on sentence structure

Teaching Opportunity: Discussing how syntax affects the author's purpose.

# Multiple-Choice Stems

PDF of Multiple-Choice Stems

# Purpose of MC Monday: Evaluate the pattern in multiple-choice answers

## Required Elements:

1. Make answer choices **parallel** in structure and approximately **equal** in length.
2. Make one answer option **clearly incorrect** (called a distractor).
3. Make one answer option a **misreading** or a **literal** response.
4. Make one answer option dependent on **careful reading** of the **stem** (the question part).
5. Make two answer options **similar** to each other, but one of them will be **slightly “righter”** than the other and **inclusive** of information in both options.
6. Make sure the **stem** (question part) is **clear**.
7. Do **NOT** repeat words in the options that could be included in the stem.
8. Offer **five** choices per question.
9. Use a **variety** of stems (at least one from each of the three levels).
10. Capitalize, bold, **AND**, underline words such as “best,” “least,” “always,” “except,” “not,” “never,” “all.”

# Student Samples: 1984 by George Orwell

7 March 2010

"1984"

1. What is the dominant technique used in the following lines?  
"They simply swallowed everything, and what they swallowed did them no harm, because it left no residue behind, just as a grain of corn will pass undigested through the body of a bird (156)."
- a) Diction to convey intelligence in the speaker
  - b) Imagery to create a visual aid through metaphor
  - c) Details to provide more information about the digestive system of a bird
  - d) Language to set the time period using word like, "behind," to symbolize past
  - e) Syntax to create a compound-complex sentence revealing the speaker's wordy nature

2. What tone is set in the line,  
"The Brotherhood cannot be wiped out... nothing holds it together except an idea which is indestructible (176)."

- a) vague
- b) frightening
- c) eerie
- d) dreadful
- e) awe

## TEACHING OPPORTUNITY:

What is a better tone word than "eerie"? Pose this question to the class during presentations. Can they elevate their choice of tone words by arriving at "ominous" or "oppressive" or "grave"?

# Benefits of MC Monday

- Building confidence
- Knowing rather than guessing
- Connecting to the question stem
- Understanding literal meaning vs. metaphorical meaning
- Reading the text more closely