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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

The Grammar Dog Guide to
Evangeline
by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

All exercises use sentences from the poem.
Includes over 250 multiple choice questions.

About Grammartog

Grammartog was founded in 2001 by Mary Jane McKinney, a high school English teacher and dedicated grammarian. She and other experienced English teachers in both high school and college regard grammar and style as the key to unlocking the essence of an author.

Their philosophy, that grammar and literature are best understood when learned together, led to the formation of Grammartog.com, a means of sharing knowledge about the structure and patterns of language unique to specific authors. These patterns are what make a great book *a great book*. The arduous task of analyzing works for grammar and style has yielded a unique product, guaranteed to enlighten the reader of literary classics.

Grammartog's strategy is to put the author's words under the microscope. The result yields an increased appreciation of the art of writing and awareness of the importance and power of language.



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EVANGELINE by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow – Grammar and Style
All exercises use sentences from the book.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Exercise 1	--	Parts of Speech <i>20 multiple choice questions</i> 3
Exercise 2	--	Proofreading: Spelling, Capitalization, Punctuation <i>12 multiple choice questions</i> 5
Exercise 3	--	Proofreading: Spelling, Capitalization, Punctuation <i>12 multiple choice questions</i> 6
Exercise 4	--	Simple, Compound, Complex Sentences <i>20 multiple choice questions</i> 7
Exercise 5	--	Complements <i>20 multiple choice questions on direct objects, predicate nominatives, predicate adjectives, and objects of prepositions</i> 9
Exercise 6	--	Phrases <i>20 multiple choice questions on prepositional, appositive, gerund, infinitive, and participial phrases</i> 11
Exercises 7	--	Verbals: Gerunds, Infinitives, and Participles <i>20 multiple choice questions</i> 13
Exercise 8	--	Clauses <i>20 multiple choice questions</i> 15

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Exercise 9 --	Style: Figurative Language <i>20 multiple choice questions on metaphor, simile, personification, and hyperbole</i> 17
Exercise 10 --	Style: Poetic Devices <i>20 multiple choice questions on assonance, consonance, alliteration, repetition, and rhyme</i> 19
Exercise 11 --	Style: Sensory Imagery <i>20 multiple choice questions</i> 21
Exercise 12 --	Style: Allusions and Symbols <i>20 multiple choice questions on allusions to history, mythology, religion, and folklore/superstition</i> 23
Exercise 13 --	Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 1 <i>6 multiple choice questions</i> 25
Exercise 14 --	Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 2 <i>6 multiple choice questions</i> 27
Exercise 15 --	Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 3 <i>6 multiple choice questions</i> 29
Exercise 16 --	Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 4 <i>6 multiple choice questions</i> 31
Answer Key	Answers to Exercises 1-16 33
Glossary --	Definitions of Terms Used in Literary Analysis 35

SAMPLE EXERCISES - EVANGELINE by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

EXERCISE 5 COMPLEMENTS

Identify the complements in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

d.o. = direct object *p.n.* = predicate nominative *i.o.* = indirect object
o.p. = object of preposition *p.a.* = predicate adjective

- ___1. There the richest was poor, and the poorest lived in abundance.
- ___2. Thus dwelt together in love these simple Acadian farmers, -- dwelt in the love of God and of man.
- ___3. Happy was he who might touch her hand or the hem of her garment!

EXERCISE 6 PHRASES

Identify the phrases in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

par = participial *ger* = gerund *inf* = infinitive *appos* = appositive *prep* = prepositional

- ___1. Lowing of cattle and peals of laughter were heard in the farm yard, echoed back by the barns.
- ___2. But, among all who came young Gabriel only was welcome; Gabriel Lajeunesse, the son of Basil the blacksmith, who was a mighty man in the village, and honored of all men.
- ___3. Birds of passage sailed through the leaden air from the icebound, desolate northern bays to the shores of tropical islands.

EXERCISE 9 STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Identify the figurative language in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

p = personification *s* = simile *m* = metaphor *o* = onomatopoeia *h* = hyperbole

- ___1. Loud from its rocky caverns, the deep-voiced neighboring ocean speaks, and in accents disconsolate answers the wail of the forest.
- ___2. Where is the thatch-roofed village, the home of Acadian farmers, -- men whose lives glided on like rivers that water the woodlands, darkened by shadows of earth, but reflecting an image of heaven?
- ___3. Hearty and hale was he, an oak that is covered with snowflakes.

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EXERCISE 12 STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS

Identify the type of allusion in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

a. history b. mythology c. religion d. folklore/superstition

- ___1. Strongly built were the houses, with frames of oak and of chestnut, such as the peasants of Normandy built in the reign of the Henries.

- ___2. Under the sycamore tree were hives overhung by a penthouse, such as the traveler sees in regions remote by the roadside, built o'er a box for the poor, or the blessed image of Mary.

- ___3. . . . how the fever was cured by a spider shut up in a nutshell, and of the marvelous powers of four-leaved clover and horseshoes . . .

EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

Orderly all things proceeded, and duly and well were completed.
And the great seal of the law was set like a sun on the margin.
Then from his leathern pouch the farmer threw on the table
Three times the old man's fee in solid pieces of silver;
And the notary rising, and blessing the bride and the bridegroom,
Lifted aloft the tankard of ale and drank to their welfare.
Wiping the foam from his lip, he solemnly bowed and departed,
While in silence the others sat and mused by the fireside,
Till Evangeline brought the draught-board out of its corner.
Soon was the game begun. In friendly contention the old men
Laughed at each lucky hit, or unsuccessful maneuver,
Laughed when a man was crowned, or a breach was made in the king row.
Meanwhile apart, in the twilight gloom of a window's embrasure,
Sat the lovers, and whispered together, beholding the moon rise
Over the pallid sea and the silvery mist of the meadows.
Silently one by one, in the infinite meadows of heaven,
Blossomed the lovely stars, the forget-me-nots of the angels. (From Part the First, III)

Read the passage a second time, marking figurative language, sensory imagery, poetic devices, and any other patterns of diction and rhetoric, then answer the questions below.

- 1 Orderly all things proceeded, and duly and well were completed.
- 2 And the great seal of the law was set like a sun on the margin.
- 3 Then from his leathern pouch the farmer threw on the table
- 4 Three times the old man's fee in solid pieces of silver;

SAMPLE EXERCISES - EVANGELINE by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

- 5 And the notary rising, and blessing the bride and the bridegroom,
6 Lifted aloft the tankard of ale and drank to their welfare.
7 Wiping the foam from his lip, he solemnly bowed and departed,
8 While in silence the others sat and mused by the fireside,
9 Till Evangeline brought the draught-board out of its corner.
10 Soon was the game begun. In friendly contention the old men
11 Laughed at each lucky hit, or unsuccessful maneuver,
12 Laughed when a man was crowned, or a breach was made in the king row.
13 Meanwhile apart, in the twilight gloom of a window's embrasure,
14 Sat the lovers, and whispered together, beholding the moon rise
15 Over the pallid sea and the silvery mist of the meadows.
16 Silently one by one, in the infinite meadows of heaven,
17 Blossomed the lovely stars, the forget-me-nots of the angels.

- ___1. **The underlined words in Lines 1 are an example of . . .**
 a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme
- ___2. **Line 2 contains an example of . . .**
 a. metaphor b. simile c. personification d. hyperbole
- ___3. **ALL of the following devices are used to develop tone EXCEPT . . .**
 a. narration
 b. poetic devices
 c. figurative language
 d. rhetorical question