

Name: _____ Date: _____

Ancient Origins, Augmented Artistry: 12th Grade Idiom Quiz

Analyze the etymology and rhetorical impact of complex expressions like 'Pyrrhic victory' and 'Siren song' through contextual application.

1. In a political debate, a candidate's strategy results in a 'Pyrrhic victory.' Which scenario best illustrates this idiom?

- A. Winning the election but losing all legislative support and personal reputation in the process.
- B. Gaining a landslide victory that secures a second term in office.
- C. Losing the popular vote but winning the electoral college through a recount.
- D. Achieving a victory that was predicted by all major polling organizations.

2. The CEO's proposal to move all operations to an unproven tech platform was described by the board as a _____—a pursuit of something beautiful or promising that is ultimately deceptive or destructive.

- A. Siren song
- B. White elephant
- C. Pandora's box
- D. Albatross around the neck

3. The expression 'to throw down the gauntlet' originated from the medieval practice of challenging someone to a duel by casting a heavy armored glove on the ground.

- A. True
- B. False

4. Which of the following literary allusions functions as an idiom for an inescapable, self-contradictory circular logic?

- A. A Brave New World
- B. A Catch-22
- C. A Scarlet Letter
- D. A Moby Dick

5. Determined to change his reputation, the former convict sought to _____—a metaphor for starting over without the influence of past mistakes.

- A. Burn his bridges
- B. Kick the bucket
- C. Turn over a new leaf
- D. Steal someone's thunder

6. The expression 'to cross the Rubicon' means to make a minor error that can be easily corrected before a project is finished.

- A. True

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B. False

7. If a modern architect describes a massive, expensive, but useless stadium as a 'white elephant,' they are highlighting its:

- A. Unique aesthetic value and cultural significance
- B. Heavy financial burden and lack of utility
- C. Environmental sustainability and green design
- D. Strength and structural durability

8. While the scientist's findings were groundbreaking, her refusal to acknowledge her predecessors' work became an _____ around her neck, dragging down her professional credibility.

- A. Apple of discord
- B. Albatross
- C. Olive branch
- D. Gilding the lily

9. The idiom 'to read the riot act' implies giving a stern warning or reprimand to someone to cease their current behavior.

- A. True
- B. False

10. When a journalist refers to 'tilting at windmills,' which literary figure's actions are they referencing to suggest someone is fighting imaginary or futile battles?

- A. Hamlet
- B. Don Quixote
- C. Atticus Finch
- D. Jay Gatsby