



Questions 21–30

Line This rapid transcontinental settlement and these new urban industrial
(5) circumstances of the last half of the 19th century were accompanied by the
development of a national literature of great abundance and variety. New themes,
(10) new forms, new subjects, new regions, new authors, new audiences all emerged in
the literature of this half century. As a result, at the onset of World War I, the spirit
and substance of American literature had evolved remarkably, just as its center of
production had shifted from Boston to New York in the late 1880s and the sources
of its energy to Chicago and the Midwest. No longer was it produced, at least in its
(15) popular forms, in the main by solemn, typically moralistic men from New
England and the Old South; no longer were polite, well-dressed, grammatically
correct, middle-class young people the only central characters in its narratives; no
longer were these narratives to be set in exotic places and remote times; no longer,
indeed, were fiction, poetry, drama, and formal history the chief acceptable forms
(20) of literary expression; no longer, finally, was literature read primarily by young,
middle class women. In sum, American literature in these years fulfilled in
considerable measure the condition Walt Whitman called for in 1867 in describing
Leaves of Grass: it treats, he said of his own major work, each state and region as
peers "and expands from them, and includes the world . . . connecting an
American citizen with the citizens of all nations." At the same time, these years
saw the emergence of what has been designated "the literature of argument,"
powerful works in sociology, philosophy, psychology, many of them impelled by
the spirit of exposure and reform. Just as America learned to play a role in this half
century as an autonomous international political, economic, and military power,
so did its literature establish itself as a producer of major works.

21. The main idea of this passage is
(A) that the new American literature was less provincial than the old
(B) that World War I caused a dramatic change in America
(C) that centers of culture shifted from East to West
(D) that most people were wary of the new literature
22. It can be inferred from lines 1–3 that the previous passage probably discussed
(A) the importance of tradition to writers
(B) new developments in industrialization and population shifts
(C) the fashions and values of 19th century America
(D) the limitations of American literature to this time
23. The word "evolved" in line 6 is closest in meaning to
(A) became famous
(B) turned back
(C) diminished
(D) changed
24. The word "it" in line 8 refers to
(A) the population
(B) the energy
(C) American literature
(D) the manufacturing
25. The word "exotic" in line 12 is closest in meaning to
(A) urban
(B) unusual
(C) well-known
(D) old-fashioned

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