Questions for Icarus and Daedalus

1. **Part A Question:** In **“**Daedalus and Icarus,” what

do the lines “he turned his mind to arts unknown /

and nature unrevealed” (lines 9-10) imply about

Daedalus and his invention?

a. that his invention will bring him wealth and

fame

b. that his invention will be something beyond

common understanding

c. that the primary motive for his invention is

revenge

d. that he is nervous about the success of his

invention

**2. Part B Question:** Which quotation provides the **best**

support for the answer to Part A?

a. “But Daedalus abhorred the Isle of Crete— / and

his long exile on that sea-girt shore, / increased

the love of his own native place.” (lines 1-3)

b. “While he was working, his son Icarus, / with

smiling countenance and unaware / of danger to

himself, perchance would chase / the feathers,

ruffled by the shifting breeze, / or soften with his

thumb the yellow wax,” (lines 17-21)

c. “. . . ‘My son, I caution you to keep / the middle

way, for if your pinions dip / too low the waters

may impede your flight;’” (lines 30-32)

d. “Beneath their flight, / the fisherman while

casting his long rod, / or the tired shepherd

leaning on his crook, / or the rough plowman as

he raised his eyes, / astonished might observe

them on the wing, / and worship them as Gods.”

(lines 50-55)

**3. Part A Question:** In “Daedalus and Icarus,” how

does the poet structure lines 81-111 to add meaning

to the events of the poem?

a. He includes a flashback of the story of Perdix to

show that Daedalus wanted to kill Perdix, and

now Perdix enjoys a kind of revenge by seeing

Daedalus mourning the death of his son.

b. He includes a flashback of the story of Perdix to

show that Perdix now lives in the shade but

Icarus died trying to reach the sun.

c. He includes a prediction that foretells that

Daedalus will soon have to bury Perdix as well

as his own son.

d. He includes a prediction that foretells that

Perdix will be fated to live an obscure life when

he should have been a famous inventor.

**4. Part B Question:** Which quotation from the poem

**best** supports the answer to Part A?

a. “. . . a pert partridge near, /

observed him from the covert of an oak, /and whistled his unnatural delight.” (lines 81-

83)

b. “'Twas then a single bird, /

the first one of its kind. 'Twas never seen /

before the sister of Daedalus had brought

him Perdix, her dear son, to be his pupil.” (lines

84-87)

c. “He took the jagged backbone of a fish,

/ and with it as a model made a saw, / with sharp

teeth fashioned from a strip of iron.” (lines 90-

93)

d. “The Partridge hides / in shaded

places by the leafy trees / its nested eggs among

the bush's twigs; / nor does it seek to rise in lofty

flight, / for it is mindful of its former fall.” (lines

107-110)

**5. Part A Question:** What do lines 38-45 from

Ovid’s poem **most** suggest about Daedalus?

a. Daedalus is worried about the quality of the

wings.

b. Daedalus is sad to leave the Isle of Crete.

c. Daedalus is a caring parent.

d. Daedalus is proud of his invention

**6. Part B Question:** From the list below, select **two**

quotations that provide additional evidence to

support the answer to Part A. Drag and drop your

answers into the boxes labeled “Evidence.”

1) “He said, ‘The unconfined skies remain / though Minos may be lord of all the world /his sceptre is not regnant of the air, / and by that untried way is our escape.’" (lines 5-8)

2) “. . . He fashioned quills / and feathers in due order — deftly formed / from small to large, as any rustic pipe / prom straws unequal slants. He bound with thread / the middle feathers, and the lower fixed / with pliant wax; till so, in gentle curves /arranged, he bent them to the shape of birds.” (lines 10-16)

3) “But when at last / the father finished it, he poised himself, / and lightly floating in the winnowed air / waved his great feathered wings with bird-like ease.” (lines 24-27)

4) “. . . ‘My son, I caution you to keep / the middle way, for if your pinions dip / too low the waters may impede your flight; / and if they soar too high the sun may scorch them. / Fly midway. Gaze not at the boundless sky, . . . but follow my safe guidance.’” (lines 30-37)

5) “And as he called upon his father's name / his voice was smothered in the dark blue sea, / now called

*Icarian* from the dead boy's name.” (lines 69-71)

6) “The unlucky father, not a father, called, /name ‘Where are you, Icarus?’ and ‘Where are you? / In what place shall I seek you, Icarus?’ / He called again; and then he saw the wings / of his dear Icarus, floating on the waves; / and he began to rail and curse his art.” (lines 72-77)

7) “. . . Wherefore Daedalus / enraged and envious, sought to slay the youth / and cast him headlong

from Minerva's fane,— / then spread the rumor of an accident.” (lines 96- 99)