“Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment” by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Vocabulary

Give the part of speech and definition.

1. venerable: ( ___ ) ___________________________________________________

2. withered: ( ___ ) ___________________________________________________

3. vigor: ( ___ ) _____________________________________________________

4. mendicant: ( ___ ) ________________________________________________

5. obscure: ( ___ ) ___________________________________________________

6. repentance: ( ___ ) ________________________________________________

7. exuberant: ( ___ ) _________________________________________________

8. decrepitude: ( ___ ) ______________________________________________

9. rheumatic: ( ___ ) _________________________________________________

10. transient: ( ___ ) _________________________________________________

Reading Questions

1. Which of the following is an example of foreshadowing?
   a. Widow Wycherly dancing  
   b. Their old fashioned clothes  
   c. The death of Sylvia  
   d. The men fighting over Widow Wycherly

2. What might the rose symbolize?
   a. Old age is unavoidable  
   b. Dr. Heidegger’s unconditional love for Sylvia  
   c. The Fountain of Youth  
   d. Colonel Killegrew’s illnesses

3. The butterfly might symbolize:
   a. Anything can come back to life with the right potion.  
   b. Love never dies.  
   c. Love will die despite our attempts to change it.  
   d. Life is brief but beautiful.

4. What do you think Dr. Heidegger was REALLY hoping to discover?
   a. Does true love really exist?  
   b. How young can you become if you drink the magic potion?  
   c. Will his friends do anything he asks?  
   d. Given a chance to be young again, would we make the same mistakes?