

CLAT WHISPERS

(CLAT Mentorship Program)

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN OUR TELEGRAM CHANNEL](#)

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN OUR TELEGRAM DISCUSSION GROUP](#)

Passage 1

Source: The Left Hand of Darkness by Ursula K. Le Guin

To learn which questions are unanswerable, and not to answer them: this skill is most needful in times of stress and darkness. The unknown is not necessarily the unknowable. But one must approach it with humility, not with arrogance. The arrogance of certainty is the enemy of understanding. On the planet Gethen, where winter never ends and the people are neither male nor female, the envoy Genly Ai struggles not only with the cold but with the limits of his own perception.

The Gethenians are ambisexual, entering a state of sexual activity only during kemmer, a cyclical phase. Outside of kemmer, they are androgynous, and thus their society lacks the rigid gender binaries that structure most human cultures. Genly, trained in diplomacy but steeped in the assumptions of his own world, finds himself repeatedly confounded by the Gethenians' refusal to conform to his expectations. He misreads their silences, their rituals, their politics. He mistakes patience for passivity, ambiguity for deceit.

Yet it is in the slow, painful process of unlearning that Genly begins to see. Not to see the Gethenians as curiosities or deviations, but as beings whose difference reveals the contingency of his own norms. The journey across the ice with Estravan, a disgraced politician and unexpected ally, becomes a crucible of transformation. In the white silence of the glacier, stripped of power and pretense, Genly begins to understand that duality is not destiny, and that truth may reside not in opposition, but in relation.

Le Guin's narrative resists resolution. It does not offer a moral, nor does it reward the reader with certainty. Instead, it invites a kind of epistemological humility—a recognition that knowledge is always partial, always shaped by the knower. In this way, the novel is not merely a story about another world, but a meditation on the limits of language, the fluidity of identity, and the ethics of encounter.

DAILY RC PRACTICE SHEET FOR CLAT

CLAT WHISPERS

CLAT WHISPERS

(CLAT Mentorship Program)

1. **What is the author's likely attitude toward Genly Ai's initial worldview?**
 - A. Sympathetic, as his confusion is portrayed as a natural response to cultural difference.
 - B. Critical, suggesting that his assumptions hinder his ability to understand others.
 - C. Neutral, presenting his perspective as one of many equally valid interpretations.
 - D. Admiring, emphasizing his diplomatic training and resilience in adversity.

2. **Which of the following best describes the function of the glacier journey in the narrative?**
 - A. It serves as a literal and symbolic space for Genly's transformation through hardship and introspection.
 - B. It provides a dramatic backdrop for political intrigue and betrayal among the Gethenians.
 - C. It illustrates the futility of cross-cultural understanding in the face of environmental extremity.
 - D. It reinforces the superiority of Gethenian society by contrasting it with Genly's failures.

3. **What does the phrase "epistemological humility" most likely mean in the context of the final paragraph?**
 - A. The belief that knowledge is best acquired through scientific rigor and empirical testing.
 - B. The acceptance that all knowledge is subjective and therefore meaningless.
 - C. The recognition that understanding is limited and shaped by one's perspective.
 - D. The idea that truth is absolute but difficult to access without proper training.

4. **Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for this passage?**
 - A. "The Cold Frontier: Diplomacy and Survival on Gethen"
 - B. "Beyond Duality: Identity, Perception, and the Ethics of Knowing"
 - C. "Kemmer and Conflict: The Politics of Androgyny"
 - D. "The Silence of the Ice: Estravan's Betrayal and Redemption"

5. **Which of the following best captures the author's opinion about the narrative structure of the novel?**

DAILY RC PRACTICE SHEET FOR CLAT
CLAT WHISPERS

CLAT WHISPERS

(CLAT Mentorship Program)

- A. It is deliberately unresolved, encouraging readers to embrace ambiguity and question their assumptions.
- B. It is overly complex, making it difficult for readers to extract a coherent moral or message.
- C. It is structured around a clear arc of redemption and reconciliation between cultures.
- D. It is primarily allegorical, using fantasy to critique contemporary political systems.

Passage 2

Source: Piranesi by Susanna Clarke

The House is vast and endless. Its Halls stretch in all directions, filled with statues of impossible beauty and unknowable meaning. The tides rise and fall through its lower levels, and birds nest in its upper reaches. Piranesi, the solitary inhabitant, catalogues its wonders with reverence and precision. He believes the House is the world, and that it is benevolent, sacred, and eternal.

Piranesi's journals are meticulous records of his observations: the behavior of tides, the migration of birds, the placement of statues. He speaks to the House as one might speak to a god, and he listens for its answers in silence and echoes. His days are structured by ritual and inquiry, and his solitude is not loneliness but devotion.

Yet there is another presence: the Other. A man who visits the House weekly, dressed in modern clothes, speaking of knowledge and power. He calls Piranesi by another name, and hints at a world beyond the House. Piranesi is puzzled by these suggestions, but he trusts the House more than he trusts the Other. The Other seeks something—something hidden, something ancient—and he believes Piranesi can help him find it.

As Piranesi begins to uncover fragments of forgotten memories, the House itself seems to shift. The statues take on new meanings, the tides grow more unpredictable, and the silence becomes charged with unease. He begins to question the nature of the House, the truth of his identity, and the intentions of the Other. Is the House a sanctuary or a prison? Is knowledge a gift or a curse? Is solitude a form of freedom or a symptom of erasure?

DAILY RC PRACTICE SHEET FOR CLAT

CLAT WHISPERS

CLAT WHISPERS

(CLAT Mentorship Program)

Clarke's narrative unfolds like a labyrinth, each passage leading deeper into mystery. The House is not merely a setting—it is a metaphor, a consciousness, a mirror. Piranesi's journey is not toward escape, but toward understanding: of the self, of memory, and of the fragile boundary between reality and illusion.

1. **Which of the following details is explicitly stated in the passage?**
 - A. Piranesi believes the House is a hostile environment that must be escaped.
 - B. The Other visits the House regularly and seeks something ancient and hidden.
 - C. The House contains statues that depict historical figures from the outside world.
 - D. Piranesi's journals are filled with philosophical reflections on solitude and madness.
2. **What is the function of the House in the narrative?**
 - A. It serves as a literal prison designed to isolate Piranesi from the outside world.
 - B. It operates as a symbolic space that reflects Piranesi's internal transformation and metaphysical inquiry.
 - C. It provides a backdrop for the Other's scientific experiments and psychological manipulation.
 - D. It represents a utopian society governed by ritual and natural harmony.
3. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Detached and clinical, presenting a neutral account of Piranesi's environment.
 - B. Reverent and mysterious, evoking awe and philosophical depth.
 - C. Satirical and ironic, critiquing the absurdity of fantasy tropes.
 - D. Urgent and suspenseful, emphasizing danger and conflict.
4. **Which of the following inferences can be drawn from the passage?**
 - A. Piranesi's trust in the House may be based on incomplete or manipulated memories.
 - B. The Other is a benevolent figure who seeks to rescue Piranesi from isolation.
 - C. The House is a scientific construct designed to study human cognition.
 - D. Piranesi's solitude is entirely voluntary and unconnected to external forces.
5. **Which of the following best captures the central idea of the passage?**
 - A. The House is a mystical realm that offers spiritual enlightenment to those who dwell within it.
 - B. Piranesi's journey through the House reveals the tension between perception and reality, memory and identity.

DAILY RC PRACTICE SHEET FOR CLAT
CLAT WHISPERS

CLAT WHISPERS

(CLAT Mentorship Program)

- C. The relationship between Piranesi and the Other illustrates the dangers of curiosity and ambition.
- D. Clarke's novel critiques modern society by contrasting it with the purity of Piranesi's world.

DAILY RC PRACTICE SHEET FOR CLAT
CLAT WHISPERS

CLAT WHISPERS

(CLAT Mentorship Program)

Answers:

Passage 1

1. B.

A. incorrect - While his confusion might be natural, the author's language ("steeped in the assumptions," "misreads their silences") is more critical than sympathetic.

B. correct - This option accurately reflects the author's attitude. The passage clearly states that Genly's worldview, "steeped in the assumptions of his own world," causes him to be "repeatedly confounded" and to "misread" the Gethenians, thus hindering his understanding.

C. incorrect - The passage presents Genly's initial perspective as flawed and limited, which he must "unlearn." It is not portrayed as an equally valid interpretation.

D. incorrect - The passage focuses on Genly's failures of perception and the "painful process of unlearning," not on admiring his training or resilience.

2. A

A. correct - This option accurately describes the function of the journey. The passage calls it a "crucible of transformation" where Genly is "stripped of power and pretense" and "begins to understand," making it both a literal journey and a symbolic one of introspection and change.

B incorrect - The passage frames the journey as a space of transformation for Genly and Estravan, not as a backdrop for political intrigue.

C incorrect - The journey is portrayed as the very means by which cross-cultural understanding is achieved, not as an illustration of its futility.

D-Incorrect - The journey is about Genly's personal growth and coming to understand Gethenian society, not about reinforcing its superiority or his failures.

3. C

A. incorrect - The concept is presented as a philosophical stance about the nature of knowledge, not a specific scientific methodology.

B. incorrect - The passage suggests knowledge is partial, not meaningless. Humility implies recognizing limits, not succumbing to nihilism.

DAILY RC PRACTICE SHEET FOR CLAT

CLAT WHISPERS

CLAT WHISPERS

(CLAT Mentorship Program)

C. correct - This option aligns perfectly with the passage's own definition of the term: "a recognition that knowledge is always partial, always shaped by the knower".

D. incorrect - This is the opposite of epistemological humility. The concept challenges the idea of absolute truth, rather than affirming it.

4. B

A. incorrect - This title is too focused on the plot elements of diplomacy and survival, missing the deeper philosophical themes of perception and identity that are central to the passage.

B correct - This title captures the core themes discussed in the passage: the challenge to binary thinking ("Beyond Duality"), the fluidity of self ("Identity"), the limits of one's worldview ("Perception"), and the novel's ultimate meditation on how we know what we know ("the Ethics of Knowing").

C. incorrect - This title focuses on specific Gethenian cultural and political elements ("Kemmer and Conflict") but fails to represent the passage's main focus on Genly's transformation and the broader philosophical questions.

D incorrect - This title centers on Estravan and specific plot points, whereas the passage uses the journey with Estravan as a means to explore the central character, Genly, and his changing worldview.

5. A

A. correct - This option accurately reflects the author's view. The passage states that the narrative "resists resolution," "does not offer a moral," and "invites a kind of epistemological humility," all of which encourage the reader to embrace ambiguity and question their own assumptions.

B. incorrect - The author presents the lack of resolution as a deliberate and valuable feature of the novel, not as a flaw that makes it "overly complex" or incoherent.

c incorrect - The author explicitly states that the narrative "resists resolution," which contradicts the idea of a "clear arc of redemption and reconciliation".

D. incorrect - While the novel has allegorical elements, the passage emphasizes its function as a "meditation on the limits of language, the fluidity of identity, and the ethics of encounter," which is a broader philosophical purpose than simply critiquing contemporary politics.

CLAT WHISPERS

(CLAT Mentorship Program)

Passage 2

1. B.

a. incorrect - This is the opposite of what is stated. Piranesi believes the House is "benevolent, sacred, and eternal" and catalogues its wonders with "reverence".

b. correct - This detail is explicitly stated in the third paragraph: "The Other seeks something—something hidden, something ancient—and he believes Piranesi can help him find it".

c. incorrect - The passage describes the statues as having "impossible beauty and unknowable meaning," not as depicting historical figures from the outside world.

d. incorrect - The passage states his journals are "meticulous records of his observations: the behavior of tides, the migration of birds, the placement of statues," not philosophical reflections on solitude.

2. A

a. incorrect - While the House may function as a prison, the passage emphasizes its role as a "metaphor, a consciousness, a mirror," suggesting its primary function is symbolic rather than literal.

b. correct - This option accurately captures the House's role as described in the final paragraph: "The House is not merely a setting—it is a metaphor, a consciousness, a mirror," reflecting Piranesi's journey toward understanding "the self, of memory, and of the fragile boundary between reality and illusion".

c. incorrect - The passage suggests the Other seeks knowledge and power, but it does not frame the House as a laboratory for his experiments.

d. incorrect - While Piranesi's life is structured by ritual and he sees the House as benevolent, the growing sense of "unease" and the questioning of whether it is a "sanctuary or a prison" complicates a simple utopian reading.

3. B

a. incorrect - The tone is not clinical. It is imbued with a sense of wonder and mystery, using words like "vast and endless," "impossible beauty," "reverence," and "sacred".

b. correct - This option best describes the tone. The passage uses language that evokes a sense of awe ("vast and endless," "impossible beauty") and enigma ("unknowable meaning," "deeper into mystery"), while posing profound philosophical questions about reality, memory, and identity.

DAILY RC PRACTICE SHEET FOR CLAT

CLAT WHISPERS

CLAT WHISPERS

(CLAT Mentorship Program)

c. incorrect - The passage takes its subject matter seriously and presents it with depth, showing no signs of satire or irony.

d. incorrect - While suspense builds as Piranesi begins to question his reality, the overall tone is more one of mystery and reverence than urgency and overt conflict.

4. A

a. correct - This inference is strongly supported by the text. The fact that Piranesi begins to "uncover fragments of forgotten memories" and that this leads him to "question the nature of the House" and "the truth of his identity" suggests his initial, trusting view was based on an incomplete or manipulated version of his past.

b. incorrect - The passage describes the Other as speaking of "knowledge and power" and Piranesi feeling "unease" about his intentions, which suggests the Other is not a benevolent rescuer.

c. incorrect - The passage presents the House as a mystical, metaphorical space, not as a scientific construct for cognitive study.

d. incorrect - The presence of the Other and the uncovering of "forgotten memories" suggest that Piranesi's solitude and his presence in the House may not be voluntary and are likely connected to external forces.

5. B

a. incorrect - While the House has mystical qualities, the passage focuses on Piranesi's journey of questioning and discovery, not on a straightforward path to spiritual enlightenment.

b. correct - This option accurately captures the central idea. The passage traces Piranesi's journey from simple belief to questioning, focusing on the core themes of what is real versus what is perceived ("perception and reality") and how his "forgotten memories" challenge his sense of self ("memory and identity").

c. incorrect - The relationship between Piranesi and the Other is a catalyst for the plot, but the central idea is Piranesi's internal journey of discovery, not a moral lesson about curiosity.

d. incorrect - The passage does not set up a clear critique of modern society; its focus is more metaphysical and psychological.