Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Read the poem “Invictus” by William Ernest Henley.

2. Answer the questions *while* reading the poem (do not need to use complete sentences).

3. Answer the multiple choice questions at the end.

Invictus Questions



1.Which of the following best describes a central theme of the text?

A. Identity is important to building self-confidence.

B. Independence means refusing to follow anyone else’s rules or laws.

C. Resilience is the ability to keep going and to refuse to give up.

D. Sacrifice is necessary to make someone a hero.

2.How does the poem’s use of darkness in its imagery contribute to the text’s overall meaning?

A. The poem describes night covering the earth from “pole to pole” (line

2), suggesting that the speaker’s outlook on the world is very bleak and hopeless.

B. The poem describes “night” (line 1) covering the speaker, symbolic of the

adversity and/or suffering he faces.

C. The poem describes “the Horror of the shade” (line 10), suggesting that the speaker’s

hard times are only temporary.

D. The poem describes a dark “place of wrath and tears” (line 9), implying that the speaker

is overcome by his depression.

3. Given the context of the poem, what does the title word “Invictus” most likely mean?

A. careless

B. lucky

C. unfortunate

D. undefeated

4. In the first stanza, the use of the word “night” can best be described as what literary technique?

A. alliteration

B. simile

C. metaphor

D. forseshadowing

5. In the second stanza, the lines “Under the bludgeonings of chance, My head is bloody, but

Unbowed,” can best be describes as what literary technique?

1. Foreshadowing
2. Simile
3. Alliteration
4. Setting