

SECTION 2 – LITERARY APPRECIATION

INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the following poem at least twice, then answer questions 11–21. Your answers should be based on the poem, and unless otherwise indicated, expressed in your own words.

The Buzzard

By Susan Wallace (*Island Echoes*)

1 I've got a sneaking feeling
That the devil must have been
The maker of the buzzard,
For he's uglier than sin.

5 His black and clumsy body
Has a cherry for a head,
And two dingy yellow talons
That go hunting for the dead.

10 This ugly, cawing creature
Has two eyes, a nose and beak
That so clutter up his mini head,
It makes the bird a freak.

15 When he soars above the tree tops
And keeps hovering in one place,
You can bet your bottom dollar
That below's a hopeless case.

20 For this vulture though he's soaring,
Has such keen and piercing eyes
That he'll never miss that second
When his victim falls and dies.

Then he swoops him down so gracious,
For these vultures have the knack
You'll mistake him for an angel,
For some angels must be black!

25 As the buzzard lands in splendor
Within inches of his prey,
He attacks the lifeless eyelids,
Making sure death had its way.

30 When he's sure the proof is given,
Then that vulture falls him to,
Tearing flesh from bony framework,
For it's all he has to do.

35 But although the buzzard's habit
Is repulsive, it's true,
When he cleans the beach and bushes,
We must give the devil his due.



16. (a) Quote and identify the first figure of speech used in stanza two.

_____ [2]

- (b) Explain what this quoted figure of speech means.

_____ [1]

17. (a) Quote and identify the figure of speech used in stanza seven.

_____ [2]

- (b) Explain what this quotation means.

_____ [2]

18. "cawing creature"

What **TWO** figures of speech are used in this phrase from line 9 of the poem?

_____ [2]

19. (a) Quote **TWO** negative words from stanza two which describe how the buzzard looks.

_____ [2]

- (b) Quote **TWO** lines from the poem which indicate how the buzzard moves.

_____ [2]

20. Using your own words, contrast the movement of the buzzard with how it looks.

[2]

21. Read the last stanza of the poem. What is the speaker's attitude towards the buzzard in this stanza? Why does he/she feel this way?

[4]

Section 2 – Total Marks [30]