Name _____ Date _____

Rhetorical Devices: Parallelism, Repetition and Antithesis

Directions: Read the speech. Then answer questions about the speaker's purpose and about what each rhetorical device adds.

Remarks at the Reopening of the Ridgeway Community Pool

Good afternoon, neighbors, and thank you for standing in the afternoon sun with me. Six summers ago, the Ridgeway Community Pool closed with a cracked basin, a failing pump and a hand-lettered sign on the gate that promised nothing more than "Closed Until Further Notice." The locker rooms gathered dust, and the diving board, once the most popular spot in town, rusted quietly in the corner. For six years, this town lost its summer. Children spent summer afternoons indoors, and our oldest swimmers began to forget what a summer morning in the water felt like.

Then a few residents decided to stop waiting. Volunteers scraped the old paint, patched the cracked tiles and rebuilt the pump. Retired plumbers taught teenagers to read a pressure gauge, and teenagers taught retired plumbers to post updates online. The bakery on Main Street donated muffins for every work crew, and the hardware store sold us grout at cost until, one week, it quietly stopped charging us at all. Families sold lemonade at the farmers market, a retired teacher raffled off a handmade quilt, and the fire department hosted a pancake breakfast that raised more money than anyone expected.

There were setbacks, of course. The first estimate for a new pump came back at twice what we had raised, and an inspector discovered a leak in the deep end two days before the opening we had planned for last June. More than once, someone at a planning meeting asked, quite reasonably, whether we should simply let the pool go and spend the money somewhere else. Each setback cost us weeks, and a few of our most dedicated volunteers began to wonder aloud whether the basin would ever hold water again.

I want to be precise about what happened next, because precision is a form of gratitude. We did not wait for someone else to save this pool; we saved it ourselves, one Saturday at a time.

Some of you gave money. Some of you gave Saturdays. Some of you gave the hardest thing of all, which was patience when the new pump failed twice in April and the whole project seemed to sink with it.

A pool, after all, is only concrete, water and chlorine. What turns it into a public place is the public that keeps showing up: the toddler in water wings, the lap swimmer who arrives before the lifeguards do, the grandmother who swore she would never wear a swimsuit again and is wearing one right now.

Swim today. Swim tomorrow. Swim until the lifeguards blow the final whistle on the last day of August. And when the gate closes for the season, remember that it will open again, because this town no longer waits for further notice.

1. What is the speaker's main purpose in these remarks at the reopening of the Ridgeway pool?

A. To warn the audience that the pool may have to close again next year

B. To honor the volunteers and celebrate what the town accomplished together

C. To ask the town council to pay for a second public pool across town

D. To explain the new safety rules that swimmers must follow this summer

2. In the opening paragraph, the speaker says, "For six years, this town lost its summer. Children spent summer afternoons indoors, and our oldest swimmers began to forget what a summer morning in the water felt like." What is the effect of repeating the word summer?

A. It shows that the speaker likes summer far better than the other seasons.

B. It stresses how much of the town's shared life vanished while the pool was closed.

C. It signals that the speaker is about to turn to the town's plans for winter.

D. It suggests that the summer heat was what caused the damage to the pool.

3. Which device does the speaker rely on in the sentence "Volunteers scraped the old paint, patched the cracked tiles and rebuilt the pump"?

A. Rhetorical question: a question asked for effect rather than for an answer

B. Parallelism: a series of phrases built in the same grammatical form

C. Antithesis: two opposing ideas set against each other

D. Anaphora: the same words repeated at the start of successive clauses

4. The speaker says, "Retired plumbers taught teenagers to read a pressure gauge, and teenagers taught retired plumbers to post updates online." What does the reversal in the second half of this sentence suggest about the relationship between the two groups of volunteers?

A. The young and old volunteers learned from each other as equals.

B. The project fell behind because the volunteers kept arguing.

C. The plumbers did not want to learn anything new from teenagers.

D. The teenagers did more of the repair work than the plumbers did.

5. The speaker says, "We did not wait for someone else to save this pool; we saved it ourselves, one Saturday at a time." What does the contrast in this sentence emphasize?

A. The speaker regrets how long the repairs ended up taking the volunteers.

B. The volunteers finished all of the repairs in a single busy weekend.

C. The town government paid for most of the repairs that the old pool needed.

D. Residents acted for themselves instead of waiting for others to rescue the pool.

6. Anaphora is the repetition of the same word or words at the start of successive sentences or clauses. Which two passages from the speech use anaphora?

☐ A. "Retired plumbers taught teenagers to read a pressure gauge, and teenagers taught retired plumbers to post updates online."

☐ B. "Some of you gave money. Some of you gave Saturdays. Some of you gave the hardest thing of all, which was patience when the new pump failed twice in April and the whole project seemed to sink with it."

☐ C. "Swim today. Swim tomorrow. Swim until the lifeguards blow the final whistle on the last day of August."

☐ D. "Volunteers scraped the old paint, patched the cracked tiles and rebuilt the pump."

☐ E. "For six years, this town lost its summer. Children spent summer afternoons indoors, and our oldest swimmers began to forget what a summer morning in the water felt like."

7. In the paragraph that begins "Some of you gave money," why does the speaker save patience for the last item?

A. To end on the gift the speaker calls the hardest, giving it the most weight

B. Because patience was the gift that the fewest people in town were able to give

C. To suggest that the money people gave mattered most to rebuilding the pool

D. Because the new pump failed before anyone in town had given any money

8. How does the sentence "A pool, after all, is only concrete, water and chlorine" prepare for the sentence that follows it?

A. It complains about how much the new concrete and other materials for the pool cost.

B. It warns swimmers that the chlorine in the water may sting their eyes this summer.

C. It reduces the pool to its materials, setting up the claim that people make it public.

D. It explains how the volunteers kept the water clean while they made the repairs.

9. The speaker says, "What turns it into a public place is the public that keeps showing up: the toddler in water wings, the lap swimmer who arrives before the lifeguards do, the grandmother who swore she would never wear a swimsuit again and is wearing one right now." What do the three examples after the colon add?

A. They name the volunteers who rebuilt the pump and patched the cracked tiles.

B. They criticize the swimmers who arrive at the pool before the lifeguards do.

C. They make the public concrete by showing swimmers of different ages and habits.

D. They list the rules that every swimmer at the pool must follow this summer.

10. The speech's final sentence ends with the words "this town no longer waits for further notice." Why is this an effective way to close?

A. It blames the lifeguards for closing the gate too early on summer evenings.

B. It announces that the pool will close for good at the end of August this year.

C. It introduces a new problem that the town will have to solve before next summer.

D. It echoes the sign from the opening paragraph and turns it into a statement of resolve.