Directions: Read the following poem/song lyrics. Then answer the following questions in complete sentences.

“I Am Rock” by Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel

A winter's day
In a deep and dark December;
I am alone,
Gazing from my window to the streets below
On a freshly fallen silent shroud of snow.
I am a rock,
I am an island.

I've built walls,
A fortress deep and mighty,
That none may penetrate.
I have no need of friendship; friendship
causes pain.
It's laughter and it's loving I disdain.
I am a rock,
I am an island.

I have my books
And my poetry to protect me;
I am shielded in my armor,
Hiding in my room, safe within my womb.
I touch no one and no one touches me.
I am a rock,
I am an island.

Don't talk of love,
And a rock feels no pain;
And an island never cries.

1. The poet used a metaphor comparing the speaker to a rock. Why do you think they used this comparison?

2. Why do you think the poets used the “island” metaphor? How is the speaker like an island?

3. What words in the first stanza are examples of alliteration?
   a. Below and snow
   b. Deep, dark, and December
   c. Silent, shroud, and snow
   d. All of the above
   e. B and C only

4. In the second stanza, the speaker says he “built walls.” In the fourth stanza, the speaker says he is “safe within my womb.” What poetic device is used in each of these quotes?
   a. Personification
   b. Hyperbole
5. In the second stanza, what does “disdain” mean?
   a. Like  
   b. Respect  
   c. Compare  
   d. Hate

6. The third stanza reveals the speaker’s feelings about love. What do you think must have happened for the speaker to say, “If I never loved I never would have cried”?

7. The fourth stanza reflects the speaker’s reaction to some life experiences. What is he doing as a result of these seemingly painful experiences? How is he protecting himself?

8. What internal rhyme can you find in the first and fourth stanza?

9. What is the effect of the last stanza? What does it mean?

10. Why does the poet chose to use repetition of the last two lines of the first stanza “I am a rock/I am an island”?

11. What is the theme of this poem?

12. What type of poem is this?
   a. Narrative- it tells a story.
   b. Dramatic- it tells a story but looks like a script with dialogue.
   c. Lyric- it shares the speaker’s thoughts and feelings.
   d. Ballad- it is set to music.