The Flight of Icarus

Multiple Choice (7 pts each)

Identify the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

1. Daedalus made wings for himself and his son in order to
   A  teach his son to fly.
   B  be more like the gods.
   C  escape from the island of Crete.
   D  show that he was an ingenious artist.

2. Why did Daedalus have “misgivings” while watching Icarus fly?
   A  He thought that Icarus would be too afraid.
   B  He thought that the wings would not be strong enough.
   C  He thought that the winds would be too strong.
   D  He thought that Icarus would be too bold and reckless.

3. Why did Icarus fly higher and higher into the sky?
   A  He wanted to impress the shepherds and plowmen.
   B  He did not know how to control his wings.
   C  He was bewitched by a sense of freedom.
   D  He was obeying his father’s instructions.

4. Daedalus first knew that his fears had come true when
   A  he saw feathers floating from the sky.
   B  he heard Icarus cry out to him.
   C  he felt the heat of the sun.
   D  he saw his son plunge into the sea.
5. When Daedalus arrived safely in Sicily he

A  buried his son.
B  built a temple.
C  made another pair of wings.
D  rejoiced in his escape.

6. Daedalus could not follow Icarus into the sky because

A  he was too heavy.
B  he was too cautious.
C  he was too slow.
D  he was too anxious.

Vocabulary (4 points each)
Write the definition for each word below and then use that word in a complete sentence making sure that you provide context clues in each sentence.

7. Moderate : ________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

8. Prowess: _________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

9. Frantic: _________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

10. Anxiety: _________________________________
    __________________________________________
    __________________________________________
    __________________________________________
Daedalus watched him proudly but with misgivings. He called Icarus to his side and, putting his arm around the boy’s shoulders, said “Icarus, my son, we are about to make our flight. No human being has ever traveled through the air before, and I want you to listen carefully to my instructions. Keep at a moderate height, for if you fly too low, the fog will clog your wings and if you fly too high, the heat will melt the wax that hold them together.

Father and son flew over Samos and Delos, which lay on their left, and Lebinthus, which lay on their right. Icarus, beating his wings in joy, felt the thrill of the cool wind on his face and the clear air above and below him. He flew higher and higher up into the blue sky until he reached the clouds. His father saw him and called out in alarm. He tried to follow him, but he was heavier and his wings would not carry him. Up and up Icarus soared, through the soft, moist clouds and out again toward the glorious sun. He was bewitched by a sense of freedom and beat his wings frantically so that they would carry him higher and higher to heaven itself. The blazing sun beat down on the wings and softened the wax. Small feathers fell from the wings and floated softly down, warning Icarus to stay his flight and glide to earth. But the enchanted boy did not notice them until the sun became so hot that the largest feathers dropped off and he began to sink. Frantically he fluttered his arms, but no feathers remained to hold the air. He cried out to his father, but his voice was submerged in the blue waters of the sea, which has forever after been called by his name.

Daedalus, crazed by anxiety, called back to him, “Icarus! Icarus, my son, where are you?”

11. What is one theme of the myth? Explain how it is revealed in the text.
12. Contrast the feelings Icarus experienced during his flight with those of his father Daedalus, citing evidence from lines 48-64 below.

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______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

13. Lines 57–63: Myths typically include events that cannot happen in real life and characters with unusual abilities. What specific evidence in the text illustrates these two aspects of a myth?

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END OF TEST TOTAL 100 POINTS