Identity Crisis

by Monica Holliday

You said to be beautiful,
I had to be thin.
You said to wear that dress,
I needed perfect curves
(Whatever that meant).
You said to drive that car,
I had to have gorgeous eyes.
You said to wear that scent,
I needed flawless skin.
You said in order to get that man,
I had to have long, luscious lashes.
You said to get that job,
I needed big, pouting lips.
You said to succeed in life,
I had to be perfect.
You said to be happy,
I had to conform to all your obsessions.
And now as I lay here,
With my living breath departed,
Looking beautiful against
The creaseless silk of
My eternal bed,
I ask you why you do this,
Why I died this way,
Trying to exemplify
Perfect.

1. What literary device is used in line 11?
   (A) alliteration
   (B) allusion
   (C) analogy
   (D) assonance

2. What best describes the form of this poem?
   (A) blank verse
   (B) free verse
   (C) haiku
   (D) ode

3. What technique is consistently used in the first 17 lines of the poem?
   (A) allegory
   (B) dominant impression
   (C) iambic pentameter
   (D) parallelism

4. Who is the ‘you’ in the poem?
   (A) celebrities
   (B) media
   (C) parents
   (D) peers

5. What line of the poem indicates a shift in tense?
   (A) line 5: “(Whatever that meant).”
   (B) line 14 “You said to succeed in life,”
   (C) line 18: “And now as I lay here,”
   (D) line 19: “With my living breath departed,”

6. What is being referred to in the phrase “The creaseless silk of / My eternal bed” in lines 21-22?
   (A) her bed at home
   (B) her coffin
   (C) her grave
   (D) her hospital bed