AP SEMINAR
DR. PAUL L. BAILEY

Reading 0807 Tuesday, July 30, 2024 Name:

I Am a Rock

Paul Simon December 14, 1965

"I Am A Rock"

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, steep and mighty That none may penetrate I have no need of friendship

Friendship causes pain

Its laughter and its loving I disdain

I am a rock

I am an island

Don't talk of love

Well, I've heard the words before

It's sleeping in my memory I won't disturb the slumber Of feelings that have died

If I never loved, I never would have cried

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

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And a rock feels no pain
And an island never cries

Problem 1. Read the poem, and respond to these prompts.

- (a) In a word, phrase, or sentence, state the author's main idea. Say why you picked this as the main idea.
- (b) Assume the author making an argument. What is his main claim? Does he give any supporting evidence for his main claim?