

First Semester Exam- 7th Grade English

Match the correct term to its definition. (1 pt. each)

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| 1. Plot | A. a struggle between opposing forces; the problem |
| 2. Climax | B. the time and place of the story |
| 3. Resolution | C. any moment of great intensity in a literary work |
| 4. Conflict | D. the point at which the conflict is resolved |
| 5. Setting | E. the pattern of events and situations in a story |

6. Define the term theme. (2 pts.)

Read each passage. The select the answer that **best** identifies the conflict the main character faces. (1 pt. each)

7. Denise had had it with Catherine acting so dramatic and la-dee-dah, just because she had gotten the main role in the play. The final straw came at the dress rehearsal when Catherine said to Mr. Fiore, "I'll do everything in my power to make the play a grand success." "Your power!" Denise blurted out. "Who do you think you are- Catherine the Great?" The heads of everyone in the Drama Club turned towards her. Unfazed, Denise continued angrily. "Everyone knows I should have gotten this part!"

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| A. external conflict: man vs. nature | C. external conflict: man vs. society |
| B. external conflict: man vs. man | D. internal conflict |

8. At the marathon starting line, I gathered with over 400 runners. We all faced the same grueling 26.2 mile race, but they didn't look as nervous as I felt. Was it my imagination, or was everyone else in better shape? I tried some warm-us but felt foolish. Why had I even signed up for this stupid race? Perhaps I should just slip into the crowd and not run at all. Of course, I had already bragged in class about running the race- me and my big mouth. Now what was I going to do?

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| A. external conflict: man vs. nature | C. external conflict: man vs. society |
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Read the following passages. Decide which type of point of view is used in each one. Write a “1” for first person, a “2” for second person, and a “3” for third person. (1 pt. each)

9. Tomas had survived a monsoon season in Myanmar. He’d experienced the July rains in Mumbai. He swore to himself, however, that he’d never before seen anything like the thundering downpour that had begun at midday and continued on, even now.
10. I hope you won’t be surprised that I can’t describe everything that happened after Jonas passed away. My memories of that summer aren’t always clear. Sometimes at night, I’ll get vision of a face, a strange wizened face.
11. Rewrite the following sentence so that it is written in first person point of view. (2 pts.)

The conductor walked through the crowded train car, looking for his assistant.

Read the excerpt from a 1906 book about child labor. Then answer the questions (12-14) that follow.

Work in the coal breakers is exceedingly hard and dangerous. Crouched over the chutes, the boys sit hour after hour, picking out the pieces of slate and other refuse from the coal as it rushes past to the washers. From the cramped position they have to assume, most of them become more or less deformed and bent-backed...

The coal is hard, and accidents to the hands, such as a cut, broken, or crushed fingers, are common among the boys. Sometimes there is a worse accident: a terrified shriek is heard, and a boy is mangled and torn in the machinery, or disappears in the chute to be picked out later smothered and dead. Clouds of dust fill the breakers and are inhaled by boys, laying the foundations for asthma and miners’ consumption.

I once stood in a breaker for half an hour and tried to do the work a twelve-year-old boy was doing day after day, for ten hours at a stretch, for sixty cents a day... There was blackness, cloud of deadly dust enfolded everything, the harsh grinding roar of the machinery and ceaseless rushing of coal through the chutes filled the ear.

12. List two possible injuries/ailments the author says the boys face in the coal mines. (1 pt. each)
13. List three words or phrases the author uses to describe the environment in the coal mines. (1 pt. each)
14. In one sentence, explain what the author is trying to convince the reader to believe. (2 pts.)

Read the following statement then answer the questions that follow.

Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested.

15. What two unlike things are being compared? (2 pts.)
16. What point is the writer making with this statement? Analyze the sentence and prove you understand by answering in 2-3 sentences. (3 pts.)

Read each pair of sentences. Write the letter of the sentence that is an example of irony. (1 pt.)

17. a. A detective is hired to solve a crime. In the end, he fails to find the criminal and has to return the money he was paid for the job.
- b. A detective is hired to solve a crime. In the end, it turns out that the detective himself is the one who committed the crime.

18. Explain why the picture is an example of irony. Be specific by using information from the picture, don't just state the definition of irony. (3 pts.)



Use the readings on the Civil War to answer questions 19-25. (1 pt. each)

19. In which of the selections does the author state opinions?
- A. Both selections
 - B. Neither selection
 - C. The newspaper selection
 - D. The textbook selection
20. Which of the underlined words indicates the author is attempting to produce an emotional response from the readers?
- A. In the *Harper's Weekly* story: "The newly formed Confederate States of America Army..."
 - B. In the *Harper's Weekly* story: "...Army viciously attacked..."
 - C. In the textbook excerpt: "...stated their intent to secede..."
 - D. In the textbook excerpt: "...Southern troops fired upon a federal fort..."
21. If a person needed unbiased, reliable information to write a report, which of the two selections would be a better source for this information?
- A. Both selections
 - B. Neither selection
 - C. The newspaper selection
 - D. The textbook selection
22. Both passages suggest a cause-and-effect relationship between two events. What are those events, and in what order do they happen?
- A. Fort Sumter is attacked and then South Carolina leaves the Union.
 - B. Soldiers from Fort Sumter attack South Carolina because it secedes from the Union.
 - C. The secession of South Carolina is followed by the attack on Fort Sumter.
 - D. Union soldiers secede from South Carolina after Fort Sumter is attacked.
23. Which of the following would be the best *main idea/purpose* for the passage from the textbook?
- A. To explain that the Civil War was long and difficult war and had a lasting impact on the country.
 - B. To explain that the Civil War should not have been fought and peace needed to be worked out.
 - C. To explain that the start of the Civil War began with the secession of South Carolina and the battle at Ft. Sumter.
24. Which of the following would be the claim for the passage from *Harper's Weekly*?
- A. The South was wrong to attack and hopefully the war will end soon.
 - B. It was a good decision to attack Ft. Sumter and more should follow.
 - C. The North needs to counter the attack on Ft. Sumter with one of their own.
25. Provide one piece of textual evidence to support your answer choice for #24.