

7th Grade Language Arts
Short Story/Literary Elements Test

Name: _____

Date: _____

Part I: Definitions (Literary Elements)

Short Answer: Please write the appropriate word on the blank for each definition. (2 points each)

1. _____ Time, place, and physical characteristics of where a story takes place.
2. _____ Assigning human qualities to an animal, object, or idea.
3. _____ Force or character working against the main character.
4. _____ Contrast between what is expected to happen and what actually exists or happens.
5. _____ Expresses the writer's attitude toward his or her subject.
6. _____ Person, animal, or creature in a literary work.
7. _____ Main character, may be a hero or heroine, with whom the audience tends to identify.
8. _____ Comparison of two unlike things, using *like* or *as*.
9. _____ Hints to the reader as to what may happen later in the text.
10. _____ Descriptive language appealing to the senses.
11. _____ Struggle between character and outside force.
12. _____ Comparison of two things that have some quality in common, without using *like* or *as*.
13. _____ A feeling that a literary work conveys to readers.
14. _____ Language used by the author for specific effect.
15. _____ Struggle within a single character.

Word Bank:

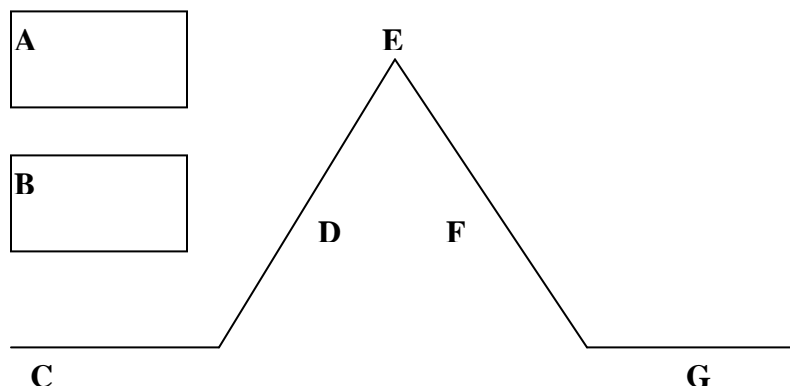
Allusion
Analogy
Antagonist
Character
Dialect
Dialogue
Exposition
External Conflict
Flashback
Foreshadowing
Imagery
Internal Conflict
Irony
Metaphor
Mood
Personification
Plot
Protagonist
Satire
Setting
Simile
Theme
Tone
Word Choice

Part II: Story Elements

Short Answer: Identify points on the chart to the side. Put the name on the line next to the corresponding letter. (1 point each)

Word Bank: Resolution, Characters, Incitement to action, Setting, Falling Action, Rising Action, Climax

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____
- F. _____
- G. _____



Part III: Passages

Strawberries (908)

Multiple Choice: Choose the best answer. Write the appropriate letter on the blank provided to the left. (2 points each)

Questions 1-2:

“Long ago, in the very first days of the world, there lived the first man and the first woman. They lived together as husband and wife, and they loved one another dearly.

But one day, they quarreled. Although neither later could remember what the quarrel was about, the pain grew stronger with every word that was spoken, until finally, in anger and in grief, the woman left their home and began walking away—to the east, toward the rising sun.

The man sat alone in his house. But as time went by, he grew lonelier and lonelier. The anger left him, and all that remained was a terrible grief and despair, and he began to cry.”

_____1. The second paragraph, “But one day, they quarreled...” is an example of which of the following:

- A. Personification
- B. Foreshadowing
- C. Internal conflict
- D. External conflict

_____2. The third paragraph, “The man sat alone in his house...” is an example of which of the following:

- A. Personification
- B. Foreshadowing
- C. Internal conflict
- D. External conflict

Short Answer: Write the appropriate answer in the blank provided. Fully answer the question. (6 points)

Questions 3:

“So the spirit waved his hand, and a thick green carpet began to grow along the trail. Then the carpet became starred with tiny white flowers, and each flower gradually ripened into a berry that was the color and shape of the human heart.

As the woman walked, she crushed the tiny berries, and the delicious aroma came up through her nose. She stopped and looked down, and saw the berries. She picked one and ate it, and she discovered its taste was as sweet as love itself.”

3. How are each of the following senses appealed to (quote from paragraph)?

Sight: _____

Taste: _____

Smell: _____

Aunty Misery (913)

Multiple Choice: Choose the best answer. Write the appropriate letter on the blank provided to the left. (2 points each)

Questions 4-8:

“Time passed, and both Aunty Misery and her tree grew bent and gnarled with age. One day, another traveler stopped at her door. This one looked suffocated and exhausted, so the old woman asked what he wanted in her village. He answered her in a voice that was dry and hoarse, as if he had swallowed a desert: ‘I am Death, and I have come to take you with me.’

Thinking fast, Aunty Misery said, ‘All right, but before I go, I would like to pluck some pears from my beloved pear tree to remember how much pleasure it brought me in this life. But I am a very old woman and cannot climb to the tallest branches where the best fruit is; will you be so kind as to do it for me?’

With a heavy sigh like wind through a catacomb, Death climbed the pear tree. Immediately, he became stuck to it as if with glue. And no matter how much he cursed and threatened, Aunty Misery would not give the tree permission to release Death.

Many years passed, and there were no deaths in the world. The people who make their living from death began to protest loudly. The doctors claimed no one bothered to come in for examinations or treatments anymore, because they did not fear dying; the pharmacists’ business suffered too, because the medicines are, like magic potions, bought to prevent or postpone the inevitable; the priests and undertakers were unhappy with the situation, also for obvious reasons. There were also many old folks tired of life who wanted to pass on to the next world to rest from the miseries of this one.”

_____ 4. Who is the protagonist of this passage?

- A. Aunty Misery
- B. Death
- C. The pear tree
- D. The sorcerer

_____ 5. Who is the antagonist of this passage?

- A. Aunty Misery
- B. Death
- C. The pear tree
- D. The sorcerer

_____ 6. Death is an example of which of the following literary elements?

- A. Personification
- B. Simile
- C. Irony
- D. Mood

_____ 7. The third paragraph, “With a heavy sigh like wind through a catacomb,” is an example of which of the following:

- A. Personification
- B. Word Choice
- C. Simile
- D. Metaphor

Short Answer: Write the appropriate answer in the blank provided. (2 points)

8. What is ironic about the reaction of other people to Death’s absence?

Woman in the Snow (944)

Multiple Choice: Choose the best answer. Write the appropriate letter on the blank provided to the left. (2 points each)

Question 9:

“Snow had already begun to fall when Grady pulled out of the garage at 3:01. It fell steadily all afternoon, creating a frosted wonderland on the manicured lawns that lined West Hall. But by nightfall the winding, twisting, and bending street was a driver’s nightmare.”

_____9. The use of synonyms, “winding, twisting, and bending” is used to create a more vivid description illustrate which element?

- A. Personification
- B. Word Choice
- C. Imagery
- D. Metaphor

Question 10:

“It was exactly one year later, on the anniversary of the record snowstorm, that Grady was assigned the Hall Street Express again. Just as before, a storm heaped several inches of snow onto the city in a matter of hours, making driving extremely hazardous.”

_____10. The paragraph to the left is an example of which literary element?

- A. Metaphor
- B. Word Choice
- C. Foreshadowing
- D. Tone

The Girl in the Lavender Dress (951)

Short Answer: Write the appropriate answer in the blank provided. (4 points each)

Questions 11-12:

“It all happened about ’42 or ’43 [Grandma said]. It was during World War II. We didn’t have much gas in those days. No one did. So whenever Herbert took the car somewhere, I tried to go along for the ride.

We lived in Vermont in those days. This time I’m thinking of, Herbert had some business in Claremont. That’s in New Hampshire, just across the river. Well, seems Herbert had saved up the gas to go by car. About 25 miles. He said we could leave after work Friday. That night we’d have us a good restaurant meal. Maybe see a movie, too. Then we’d stay in a hotel and drive back the next day.

I don’t remember the month, exactly. Sometime in the fall, because it was cool. It was a misty night. I remember Herbert had to keep the wipers going. And it was after dusk when we first saw her. I know it was dark, ‘cause I remember first seeing her in the lights ahead.”

11. What do you learn about the setting from the passage to the left?

12. Who are the characters in the story at this point?

The Tell-Tale Heart (625)

Multiple Choice: Choose the best answer. Write the appropriate letter on the blank provided to the left. (2 points each)

Questions 13-14:

“But even yet I refrained and kept still. I scarcely breathed. I held the lantern motionless. I tried how steadily I could maintain the ray upon the eye. Meanwhile, the hellish tattoo of the heart increased. It grew quicker and quicker, and louder and louder every instant. The old man’s terror *must* have been extreme! It grew louder, I say, louder every moment!—do you mark me well? I have told you that I am nervous: so I am. And now at the dead hour of the night, amid the dreadful silence of that old house, so strange a noise as this excited me to uncontrollable terror. Yet, for some minutes, I refrained and stood still. But the beating grew louder, and louder!”

Question 15:

“It is impossible to say how first the idea entered my brain; but once conceived, it haunted me day and night. Object there was none. Passion there as none. I loved the old man. He had never wronged me. He had never given me insult. For his gold I had no desire. I think it was his eye! yes, it was this! He had the eye of a vulture—a pale blue eye, with a film over it.”

_____ 13. The narration in this passage becomes frantic and nervous, especially in describing the beat of the heart; the language describing the heart and the shorter sentences are used to establish what?

- A. Tone
- B. Metaphor
- C. Foreshadowing
- D. Mood

_____ 14. The description of the night, “And now at the dead hour of the night, amid the dreadful silence of that old house, so strange a noise as this excited me to uncontrollable terror,” establishes which literary element?

- A. Tone
- B. Metaphor
- C. Foreshadowing
- D. Mood

_____ 15. “He had the eye of a vulture—a pale blue eye, with a film over it” is an example of which literary element?

- A. External conflict
- B. Simile
- C. Metaphor
- D. Foreshadowing

Bonus

Explain the irony found in the comic to the right. (1 point for identifying the irony, 2 points for the explanation):



Part I:

1. Setting
2. Personification
3. Antagonist
4. Irony
5. Tone
6. Character
7. Protagonist
8. Simile
9. Foreshadowing
10. Imagery
11. External Conflict
12. Metaphor
13. Mood
14. Word Choice
15. ~~Setting~~ Internal Conflict

Part II:

- A Setting
- B Characters
- C Incitement to Action
- D Rising Action
- E Climax
- F Falling Action
- G Resolution

Part III:

1. ~~D~~ D
2. ~~C~~ C
3. slight: thick green carpet, starred w/ tiny white flowers
4. A color / shape
5. B human heart,
6. A she saw the berries
7. C smell: delicious aroma
8. You would expect people to be upset taste: taste like love
9. B
10. C
11. '42 or '43, WWII, Vermont/NH, Friday,
12. Gma, Herbert, a girl fall, misty night
13. A
14. D
15. C

Bonus:

- Zachariah Vandenmeerdonk doesn't like big words (1)
- His name is 25 letters long, yet he does not like the use of big words. (2)