BRITISH COLUMBIA LITERARY STUDIES 11 (MLTST11) · UNIT A · 25 QUESTIONS

Reading and Analyzing Fiction — Practice Test

This practice test was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button to let Brett know so he can fix it.

Reading I - The Light at Grey Point

Use this reading for questions 1 to 5.

Elin lived with her father at the lighthouse on Grey Point, a rocky headland far from the nearest town. On a wild November night, her father fell ill in bed with a fever, and the great lamp at the top of the tower stood dark. Out at sea, a small fishing boat with a broken engine drifted toward the rocks, and its crew waved a lantern in hope that someone on shore would see them.

Elin knew the lamp had to burn, even though the tower stairs were steep and the wind shook the whole building. Her hands trembled as she climbed, and her heart beat fast with every step. At the top she struck the light, trimmed the wick, and held the lamp steady through the worst of the storm. Hour by hour she watched the boat turn slowly away from the rocks and toward the beam.

By dawn the wind had eased and the boat lay safe in the harbour below. Her father, weak but smiling, told her that courage was not the absence of fear but action taken while afraid. Elin stood beside him on the cliff and watched the sun rise over a calm sea, proud that she had kept the light burning all night.

1 **According to Reading I, what is the main idea of the passage**



A Elin overcomes her fear during a storm to light the lighthouse lamp and guide a boat to safety

B Elin learns to sail a fishing boat alone through a November storm

C Elin builds a new lighthouse on Grey Point with help from the town

D Elin leaves Grey Point to find work in the nearest town

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2 **According to Reading I, which word best describes Elin**

A reckless, because she ignores the storm and climbs for fun

B careless, because she lets the lamp stand dark all night

C fearful, because she hides in bed while her father is ill

D brave, because she lights the lamp even though she is afraid

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3 **In Reading I, the isolated lighthouse setting is important because it**



A shows that the fishing boat crew are experienced lighthouse keepers

B explains why the town built a harbour far from Grey Point

C means Elin alone must act, so her choice carries the whole rescue

D proves that Elin has never seen the sea before that night

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4 **The main conflict in Reading I is best described as**

- **A** a person competing with her father for control of the lighthouse
- **B** a person struggling against the forces of nature in a storm
- **C** a person arguing with a neighbour over a fishing boat
- **D** a person rebelling against the laws of her town

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5 **The narrator of Reading I knows what Elin thinks and feels, but not what the boat crew thinks. This point of view is**

- **A** third person limited, because the narrator follows one character closely
- **B** first person, because Elin herself tells the story in her own words
- **C** second person, because the narrator addresses the reader as you
- **D** third person omniscient, because the narrator knows every mind at once

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Reading II - The Return to Willow Creek

Use this reading for questions 6 to 9.

Lena had been away from Willow Creek for ten years, and when she came back in October she hardly knew the place. The old bakery on Main Street was closed, the school had a fresh coat of yellow paint, and the street where she had played as a child seemed quieter than she remembered. She felt like a visitor in a town that had once been home.

She walked down to the river at the edge of town, and there at least nothing had changed. The water still ran cold and clear over smooth stones, just as it had when she was a girl. Her old friend June found her there and invited her to the harvest festival that weekend, and Lena agreed, curious to see who still lived in Willow Creek.

On the last day of her visit, with the permission of the new owners of her childhood house, Lena planted a small maple tree in the front yard. She decided to stay for the festival and to return each autumn, accepting that home could change and still matter. The tree, she thought, would grow roots in a place she had once left behind.

6 **According to Reading II, what is the theme of the passage**



A small towns never change, no matter how many years pass

B old friends always stay exactly as they were in childhood

C planting a tree is the only way to keep a memory alive

D home can change over time and still matter to the person who left it

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7 **In Reading II, the river most likely symbolizes**



A the reason the bakery on Main Street had to close

B the harvest festival that Lena agrees to attend

C the parts of home that stay the same while other things change

D the danger of walking alone near cold water in October

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8 **The turning point of the plot in Reading II comes when Lena**

- **A** leaves Willow Creek ten years before the story begins
- **B** decides to plant a tree and stay for the festival
- **C** first notices that the school has yellow paint
- **D** walks down to the river at the edge of town

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9 **In Reading II, the autumn setting supports the theme because autumn**

- **A** is a season of change, matching a town that has changed
- **B** is the only season when a harvest festival can be held
- **C** proves that Lena has forgotten her childhood completely
- **D** shows that the river will soon freeze and stop flowing

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Reading III - The Well Keeper

Use this reading for questions 10 to 12.

In a dry oasis town, a young woman named Amira kept the village well. That summer the rains failed, and the village council set a strict rule. Each family might draw only one bucket of water at dawn, so that the well would last until the rains returned.

One hot afternoon a traveller arrived with a small child, both thirsty from a long walk across the sand. Amira gave them an extra bucket from the well, even though the rule allowed only one bucket per family. Elder Hana objected, saying that rules protected everyone and that one exception would soon become many.

Weeks later the traveller returned with dates to share and news that rain had fallen to the north. Elder Hana admitted that the gift of water had built goodwill and trust between strangers, and the council agreed that Amira might keep a small share of water for travellers in need. Hana had begun the summer certain that rules alone kept the village safe, and ended it believing that generosity also kept it strong.

10 **According to Reading III, what does the village well show about the community**



A every family owns a private well behind its own house

B travellers are never welcome in the oasis town

C the council controls all trade with towns to the north

D water is shared and central to daily life in the oasis town

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11 **According to Reading III, what is the theme of the passage**

- **A** travellers should avoid oasis towns during a dry summer
- **B** a village well will last forever if no one draws water from it
- **C** generosity toward strangers can build trust and strengthen a community
- **D** rules should never be questioned, even when a stranger is in need

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12 **In Reading III, Elder Hana changes during the story from**

- **A** a keeper of the well to a traveller across the sand
- **B** strict about rules to open to generosity as a strength
- **C** friendly to travellers to hostile toward all strangers
- **D** certain about the rains to doubtful that rain will return

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13 **A theme differs from a topic because a theme**



A states a message or insight about the topic

B is always a single word naming the subject

C appears only in the first sentence of a story

D names the place where the story happens

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14 **An omniscient narrator is a narrator who**

- A is a character who takes part in the action
- B speaks directly to the reader as you throughout
- C knows only what one character sees and hears
- D knows the thoughts and feelings of all the characters

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15 **When a narrator is unreliable, the reader should**

- A assume the narrator is the author of the story
- B ignore all the events the narrator describes
- C question whether what the narrator says can be trusted
- D accept every statement the narrator makes as fact

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16 **Foreshadowing in a story is an early detail that**

A repeats the theme word for word at the close

B hints at an event that will happen later

C explains the whole plot in the opening line

D describes the setting after the story ends

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17 **A flashback in a story is a scene that**

A returns to an earlier time and interrupts the present action

B predicts what will happen in the final chapter

C describes a dream that the hero will later forget

D summarizes the story for a reader who skipped ahead

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18 **Dramatic irony occurs when the reader knows something that**

- **A** the author has forgotten to include in the plot
- **B** no character or reader could ever discover
- **C** the narrator refuses to tell anyone at all
- **D** a character in the story does not yet know

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19 **Situational irony occurs when the outcome of events is**

- **A** told in the wrong order by the narrator
- **B** hidden from the reader until the last page
- **C** the opposite of what was expected
- **D** exactly what every character predicted

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20 **Verbal irony occurs when a speaker says something that means**

- A more than any listener could understand
- B the opposite of the literal words spoken
- C exactly what the speaker believes to be true
- D nothing at all about the subject at hand

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21 **A dynamic character is a character who**

- A changes in an important way during the story
- B stays exactly the same from start to finish
- C appears only in the opening scene of a story
- D never speaks or acts in any scene at all

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22 **A foil character is a character who**

A tells the whole story in the first person voice

B always agrees with every choice the hero makes

C appears in the story only to describe the setting

D contrasts with the protagonist and highlights the protagonist traits

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23 **In a work of fiction, tone refers to the**

A number of chapters in the finished book

B moral lesson stated at the end of the story

C attitude of the author or narrator toward the subject

D feeling that the setting creates in the reader

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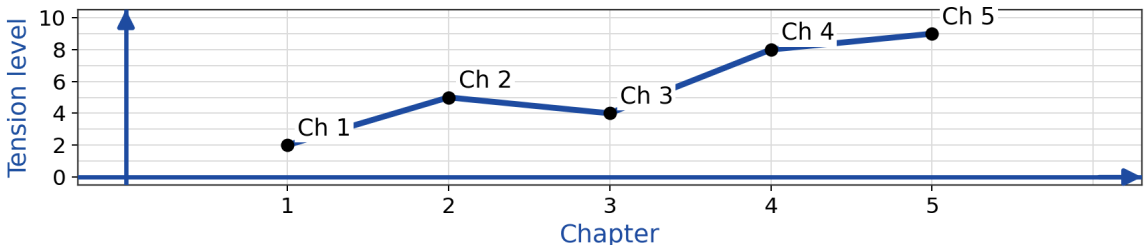
24 **The graph shows tension in a novel across five chapters. The largest increase in tension between two neighbouring chapters is between**



A chapter 4 and chapter 5

B chapter 3 and chapter 4

C chapter 1 and chapter 2

D chapter 2 and chapter 3

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25 **In the diagram, which idea belongs in the overlapping middle region shared by a first person narrator and a third person narrator**

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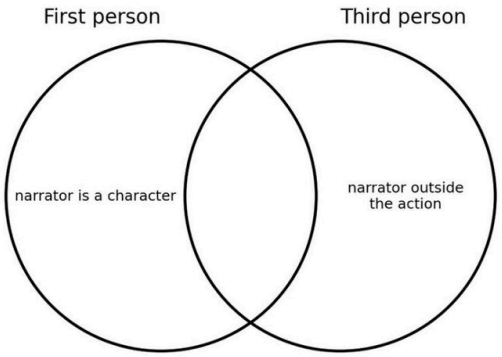

Question 25

In the diagram, which idea belongs in the overlapping middle region shared by a first person narrator and a third person narrator

A) tells a story from a chosen point of view

B) is a character taking part in the action

C) knows the thoughts of every character at once

D) speaks only in dialogue with no narration

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ANSWER KEY

1. A
2. D
3. C
4. B
5. A
6. D
7. C
8. B
9. A
10. D
11. C
12. B
13. A
14. D
15. C
16. B
17. A
18. D
19. C
20. B
21. A
22. D
23. C
24. B
25. A

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