

Name: _____ Date: _____

“A Tomcat Is” Quiz

Directions: Read the poem “A Tomcat Is” on page 3 of the November/December 2009 issue of *Storyworks*. Then fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

1. What is the main purpose of this poem?

- Ⓐ to explain how to take care of a tomcat
- Ⓑ to persuade readers that cats are better than dogs
- Ⓒ to describe a tomcat’s many different qualities
- Ⓓ to complain about a tomcat’s faults

2. Which lines rhyme in each verse?

- Ⓐ the first and third
- Ⓑ the second and fourth
- Ⓒ the second and third
- Ⓓ the first and last

3. This poem compares a tomcat to all of the following EXCEPT:

- Ⓐ a bandit
- Ⓑ a night watchman
- Ⓒ a chief of detectives
- Ⓓ a pirate

4. What does “affectionate” mean in the line “Affectionate fellow”?

- Ⓐ grumpy
- Ⓑ excited
- Ⓒ smart
- Ⓓ friendly

Critical Thinking

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answers in well-organized paragraphs. Make sure you support each answer with information and details from the poem!

5. This poem describes a tomcat in two opposite ways. Provide an example of this from the poem.

6. Personification is giving human qualities to something that’s nonhuman. How does this poem use personification?

Name: _____ Date: _____

“Deadly Bites” Quiz

Directions: Read the nonfiction article “Deadly Bites” in the November/December 2009 issue of *Storyworks*. Then fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

1. What is this article mainly about?

- (A) peanut butter factories
- (B) food poisoning
- (C) Thanksgiving dinner
- (D) fast-food restaurants

2. How many people in the U.S. get sick from salmonella poisoning each year?

- (A) 500
- (B) 2,500
- (C) 19,000
- (D) 1.4 million

3. What is one effect of having food come from many different sources?

- (A) It’s difficult to track down the source of food poisoning.
- (B) The food loses its flavor.
- (C) The prices rise.
- (D) The food is safer to eat.

4. Which of the following is NOT a result of the E. coli outbreak at Jack-in-the-Box?

- (A) Fast-food hamburgers are cooked to 150 degrees Fahrenheit.
- (B) Food cannot come from other countries.
- (C) The government enacted stricter food laws.
- (D) A national tracking system for food poisoning outbreaks was created.

5. Why does the author compare the members of “Team Diarrhea” to Sherlock Holmes?

- (A) They used magnifying glasses.
- (B) They were all from London.
- (C) They did detective work to solve a mystery.
- (D) They dressed like Sherlock Holmes.

6. When a product is taken off store shelves and people are advised not to use it, the product is _____.

- (A) recalled
- (B) relocated
- (C) overhauled
- (D) retreated

7. What made Christopher Meunier ill?

- (A) King Nut peanut butter
- (B) a brownie
- (C) peanut butter crackers
- (D) roasted peanuts

8. What does the 2009 Food Safety Modernization Act aim to achieve?

- (A) more frequent inspections of food plants
- (B) labels indicating where food is from
- (C) improved communication about contaminated food
- (D) all of the above

Critical Thinking

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answers in well-organized paragraphs. Make sure you support your answer with information and details from the article!

9. Why did so many people get sick from peanuts contaminated at one small plant?

10. In what ways can the government protect people from food poisoning?

Name: _____ Date: _____

“My Homework Ate My Homework” Quiz

Directions: Read the story “My Homework Ate My Homework” in the November/December 2009 issue of *Storyworks*. Then fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

1. What is Zaritza’s homework in this story?

- (A) making observations about her dog, Wormy
- (B) taking care of the class ferret
- (C) completing a set of math problems
- (D) both B and C

2. What is Zaritza’s opinion of Bandito?

- (A) He’s very cute.
- (B) He’s interesting to watch.
- (C) He’s an ideal pet.
- (D) He’s creepy.

3. You can conclude that one of Zaritza’s faults is she’s sometimes _____.

- (A) cranky
- (B) careless
- (C) snobby
- (D) mean

4. Which of the following events happens FIRST?

- (A) Zaritza makes up a story to tell her teacher.
- (B) Zaritza forgets to lock the door on Bandito’s cage.
- (C) Abalina hears Wormy.
- (D) Mom puts Wormy in the coat closet.

5. How does Zaritza feel about Abalina not having responsibilities?

- (A) jealous
- (B) angry
- (C) proud
- (D) disappointed

6. Why did Zaritza have to redo her math homework?

- (A) Abalina stole it from her room.
- (B) Her mother found too many mistakes in it.
- (C) Bandito chewed it up.
- (D) Zaritza decided it was too messy.

7. Why does Zaritza laugh when she says, “My homework ate my homework”?

- (A) because it’s one of her ridiculous stories
- (B) because she imagines Mr. Phinney laughing
- (C) because it’s true
- (D) because Abalina makes a funny face

8. What is the main idea of this story?

- (A) taking responsibility is part of growing up
- (B) ferrets are annoying pets
- (C) younger siblings should be treated differently
- (D) no one will believe you if you make up excuses

Critical Thinking

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answers in well-organized paragraphs. Make sure you support each answer with information and details from the story!

9. What did Zaritza learn from Bandito’s escape?

10. Which characteristics do you think Mom wants Abalina to get from Zaritza?

Name: _____ Date: _____

“Harlem Night Song” Quiz

Directions: Read the poem “Harlem Night Song” on page 21 of the November/December 2009 issue of *Storyworks*. Then fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

1. This poem takes place in . . .

- (A) the countryside
- (B) the city
- (C) a quiet suburb
- (D) a small village

2. This poem is narrated from a(n) _____ point of view.

- (A) first person
- (B) second person
- (C) third person
- (D) unknown

3. “Stars are great drops of golden dew” is an example of

- (A) simile
- (B) metaphor
- (C) hyperbole
- (D) personification

4. Which word best describes the tone of this poem?

- (A) hostile
- (B) intense
- (C) dreamy
- (D) bittersweet

Critical Thinking

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answers in well-organized paragraphs. Make sure you support each answer with information and details from the poem!

5. What can you infer about how the narrator of the poem feels about his surroundings?

6. What could be one reason the poet repeats the first verse at the end of the poem?

Name: _____ Date: _____

“Yesterday & Today” Quiz

Directions: Read the “Yesterday & Today” article in the November/December 2009 issue of *Storyworks*. Then fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

1. Krakatoa was part of what is now known

as . . .

- (A) Indonesia (C) Hawaii
(B) the Philippines (D) Washington State

2. Why couldn't people who lived near Krakatoa call for help?

- (A) No one wanted to help them.
(B) They had all left their homes.
(C) All the telegraph cables had been destroyed.
(D) They didn't have cell phones.

3. What does the word “obliterating” mean in the sentence “At 10:02 a.m. the next morning, Krakatoa exploded, obliterating the island it sat upon”?

- (A) damaging (C) destroying
(B) shaking (D) soaking

4. What is Anak Krakatoa?

- (A) another name for the volcano that erupted in 1883
(B) the name of the tsunami caused by the volcano
(C) a volcanic mountain near Canada
(D) a baby volcano where the mighty one exploded

5. In 1980, Mount St. Helens hadn't erupted in _____ years.

- (A) 40,000 (C) 123
(B) 250 (D) 97

6. To prepare for the volcano's eruption, Washington State authorities did all of the following except

- (A) evacuate people from their homes
(B) keep tourists out of the way
(C) move fish out of rivers
(D) put search-and-rescue teams in place

7. What were some of the clues that Mount St. Helens might erupt?

- (A) an earthquake (C) avalanches of ash
(B) a tsunami (D) both a and c

8. One of the major differences in the two volcanic eruptions was that at Mount St. Helens, scientists . . .

- (A) decreased the power of the eruption.
(B) predicted the disaster so people could evacuate.
(C) cooled off the lava as it shot out.
(D) caught the debris in a large net.

Critical Thinking

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answers in well-organized paragraphs. Make sure you support each answer with information and details from the story!

9. Why do you think a survivor called Mount St. Helens “the sleeping beauty”?

10. Do you think there are more similarities or more differences between the two eruptions? Explain using examples.

Name: _____ Date: _____

“The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” Quiz

Directions: Read the play *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* in the November/December 2009 issue of *Storyworks*. Then fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

1. In what year does the action of the play take place?

- (A) 1790
- (B) 1820
- (C) 1900
- (D) 1950

2. One of the villagers tells Ichabod, “But be wary. There’s mischief in the air.” This is an example of:

- (A) metaphor
- (B) allusion
- (C) hyperbole
- (D) foreshadowing

3. The people of Sleepy Hollow like Ichabod because . . .

- (A) he’s rich.
- (B) he’s handsome.
- (C) he’s the schoolmaster, and they think he’s smart.
- (D) they believe he’ll defeat the Headless Horseman.

4. Which word best describes Brom Bones?

- (A) clever
- (B) timid
- (C) eccentric
- (D) gruff

5. What causes Brom to feel angry at Ichabod?

- (A) Ichabod spreads rumors about Brom.
- (B) Brom is jealous of Ichabod’s horse.
- (C) Ichabod is stronger than Brom.
- (D) Ichabod dances with Katrina.

6. What happens at the Von Tassel’s party?

- (A) Villagers tell Ichabod stories of ghosts.
- (B) Brom fights with Ichabod.
- (C) Ichabod proposes to Katrina.
- (D) The Headless Horseman appears.

7. At the end, you could conclude any of the following EXCEPT

- (A) the Headless Horseman carries off Ichabod.
- (B) the Horseman is actually Brom Bones.
- (C) Ichabod is so scared he imagines the Horseman.
- (D) Ichabod marries Katrina.

8. Why is Knickerbocker important in the play?

- (A) He warns Ichabod about the Horseman.
- (B) He tells the story as he witnessed it.
- (C) He explains the science behind superstitions.
- (D) He adds a 21st-century point of view.

Critical Thinking

Directions: Write your answers, in a well-organized paragraph, on a separate piece of paper. Make sure you support your answer with examples from the play!

9. How are Ichabod Crane and Brom Bones contrasting characters?

10. A legend is a popular story that is handed down through time. In what ways is this play a legend?