

**Short Story Unit**

*Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**Dudek**

**Litterary Studies**

**Spring 2013**

**“A Ghost Story”**

**By Mark Twain**

Plot, Tone, Mood, suspense,

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“A Ghost Story”

1. Did the author feel relaxed when he saw the Cardiff Giant? Why?

2. What made the Cardiff Giant rouse his energies again?

3. What did the Cardiff Giant beg for?

4. Why did the Cardiff Giant feel so absurd?

5. Why was the author regretful after the Cardiff Giant had left?

Reader’s Guide to Understanding Plot Development

1. What is the conflict in this story?
2. What do you learn in the exposition or introduction of the story?
3. What events are included in the rising action of the story?
4. What is the climax of the story?
5. What events are included in the falling action of the story?
6. How is the conflict resolved?
7. How does the writer use suspense in developing the plot of this story?
8. List as many **descriptive DETAILS** as you can about the ghost:
9. **SUSPENSE** (or tension**)** is the feeling of uncertainty and interest about the outcome of certain actions an audience perceives in a dramatic work.

**a)** Explain the use of suspense in the story and b) how Mark Twain creates it:

1. Authors set a **TONE** or **MOOD** in literature by conveying an emotion or emotions through words. The way a person feels about an idea, event, or another person can be quickly determined through the tone of voice used. In literature, an author sets the tone through words.

Explain the overall tone/mood that is created in the story, andhow it changes at the end.

**“The Mark of the Beast”**

**By Rudyard Kipling**

Conflict, Point of View, Allusions, Theme, Irony



**The Mark of the Beast**

**First Thoughts**

**1.** Is Kipling’s story as scary as other werewolf stories or movies you know? Why or why not?

**2.**How many **conflicts**—external and internal—did you find? Which conflicts resulted from cultural misunderstandings?

**3.**What about the victors in these conflicts? Were some conflicts left unresolved?

**4.**Compare the**characterizations**of Fleete, Strickland, and the narrator. How does **point of view**affect what you know about each character?

**5.**Who or what is the Silver Man? What details in the story support your interpretation?

**7.**What **allusions**to the Book of Revelation in the Bible are made in this story? Consider these allusions, and tell what you think the story’s**theme** is.

**8.**Do you think the events of this story illustrate the “paradox of progress”? Explain why or why not.

**Challenging the Text**

**9.**Do you think this story has something important to say to us today despite—or even because of—its racist elements? Cite details from the story to support your answer.

**10.**Critics have called this story “nasty,” “poisonous,” and even “sadistic.” Explain why you agree or disagree with these assessments.

Analyze Literature: Irony

Three types of irony are commonly used in literature. In verbal irony, a person says one thing but means another. In situational irony, an event occurs that violates the expectations of the readers, the characters, or the audience. In dramatic irony, there is a discrepancy between what a character believes or says and what the reader understands to be true.

Answer the questions below to analyze the use of irony in “The Mark of the Beast.”

 1. “Fleete began the night with sherry and bitters, drank champagne steadily up to dessert,…[and] four or five whiskeys and sodas to improve his pool strokes.…”

 What type of irony is this? What is its effect?

 2. “Then some of us went away and annexed Burma, and some tried to open up the Sudan and were opened up by Fuzzies in that cruel scrub outside Suakim, and some found stars and medals, and some were married, which was bad, and some did other things which were worse…”

 What type of irony is this? What meaning does the irony give to the statement?

 3. “He was very drowsy and tired, but as soon as he saw us, he said, ‘Oh! Confound you fellows. Happy New Year to you. Never mix your liquors. I’m nearly dead.’”

 What type of irony is this? Explain.

**“The Lottery”**

**By Shirley Jackson**

Irony, Setting, Allusions, symbolism, foreshadowing

 “The Lottery”

1. Were you surprised by the ending of the story? If not, at what point did you know what was going to happen? How does Jackson start to foreshadow the ending in paragraphs 2 and 3? Conversely, how does Jackson lull us into thinking that this is just an ordinary story with an ordinary town?

2. Where does the story take place? In what way does the setting affect the story? Does it make you more or less likely to anticipate the ending?

3. How many details can you give illustrating how the author uses foreshadowing to hint at what is going to occur?

4. What are some examples of irony in this story? For example, why might the title, "The Lottery," or the opening description in paragraph one, be considered ironic?

5. Jackson gives interesting names to a number of her characters. Explain the possible allusions, irony or symbolism of some of these:

● Delacroix

● Graves

● Summers

● Bentham

● Hutchinson

● Warner

● Martin

6. Take a close look at Jackson's description of the black wooden box (paragraph 5) and of the black spot on the fatal slip of paper (paragraph 72). What do these objects suggest to you? Why is the black box described as "battered"? Are there any other symbols in the story?

7. What do you understand to be the writer's own attitude toward the lottery and the stoning? Exactly what in the story makes her attitude clear to us?

8. This story satirizes a number of social issues, including the reluctance of people to reject outdated traditions, ideas, rules, laws, and practices. What kinds of traditions, practices, laws, etc. might "The Lottery" represent?

9. Determine how Shirley Jackson build tension in the story?

10. When did you first realize what the lottery was for? Discuss the devices used by the author to conceal the true meaning until the end.

11. What form of irony is used in this story and explain.

**Identifying Theme Practice**

**Directions:** Determine what the theme is for each story and explain your answer. Remember, a theme is a lesson or message in the story. **Write in complete sentences**.

1. Katie Clean invited Messy Missy to her house to work on their biology project, but Katie Clean had no idea what a visit from Messy Missy entailed. First of all, it was raining and Messy Missy neither bothered to take her boots off nor thoroughly wiped them on the doormat. Then Messy Missy ate a bag of hot chips on Katie Clean’s white bedspread without asking, and Messy Missy is a sloppy eater, so hot chip powder got all over the bedspread. Katie Clean tried to be polite and ignore Messy Missy’s sloppy behavior, but then Messy Missy threw her chip wrapper on the floor. Offended, Katie Clean pretended that she was sick and asked Messy Missy to leave. The next day Katie Clean asked the teacher if she could work by herself. After explaining her situation, the teacher allowed Katie to work alone. Messy Missy would have finished the assignment by herself, but she spilled grape soda all over her assignment.

What is the theme of the story?

What happens in the story that leads you to believe this?

2. Money Mark was born rich. He never had to work a day in his life and he got everything handed to him on a silver platter. When he was six, Money Mark wanted to go to a basketball game. His father paid the starting five of the Bulls and Celtics to play a private game of Nerf-ball in Money Mark’s bedroom. When Money Mark turned thirteen, he wanted to start a band. His father hired the Rolling Stones to play with him every Saturday at the family’s private concert hall, though his family was never there. By the time he was twenty-one, Money Mark was bored with life. He was surrounded by a bunch of possessions that he didn’t appreciate and Money Mark could find nothing new or exciting in his life. Despite his vast wealth, Money Mark never found happiness. Penny Petal was born poor. Her family hardly had anything to eat, but they loved each other. Penny Petal appreciated everything she got. When she was six, her father walked her around the United Center before the Bulls played the Celtics. She was excited by the crazy fans and feeling in the air. She looked forward to the day that she could see a real game. When she was thirteen, she learned to play the buckets. She was an extremely talented musician, a natural percussionist, and everyone on the block loved the rhythms that poured from her palms. By the time she was twenty-one, Penny was a successful businesswoman. Now she had everything that she had ever dreamed of and she truly loved to share her wealth and happiness with her family who supported her through all of the hard times.

What is the theme of the story?

What happens in the story that leads you to believe this?

3. Tammy and Sammy were both students in Mr. Morton’s reading class. Mr. Morton wasn’t too strict about deadlines, and Sammy took advantage of that. He did all of his homework in his other classes but never bothered to complete Mr. Morton’s reading assignments, figuring that he could complete them later. Tammy, on the other hand, completed each assignment Mr. Morton assigned the night that he assigned it. She had to stay up a little later, but she didn’t want to get a penalty for turning in her reading work late. Tammy knew reading was a core subject and that she had to keep “C” average for the entire year or she would have to go to summer school. When the end of the quarter came, Tammy and Sammy had both planned on going to the Enchanted Castle amusement park, but Mr. Morton called Sammy’s mother, and she grounded Sammy until he turned in all of his work. That weekend was horrible for Sammy. He stayed up until 2:00 AM each night and still couldn’t complete all of the assignments. The whole while, Tammy had a great time eating pizza at Enchanted Castle, watching movies late at night, and enjoying her weekend free of stress and pressure. At the end of the quarter, Sammy was lucky to squeak by with a “C” minus in reading while Tammy earned an “A.” Sammy still hasn’t learned his lesson and probably won’t complete this activity either.

What is the theme of the story?

What happens in the story that leads you to believe this?

**“The Reapers Image”**

**By Stephen King**

Characterization, Point of View,

 “The Reaper’s Image”

1. What is the history of the Delver looking glass?
2. Why would King describe Mr. Carlin’s voice as “dry, as if bones had stirred in a cupboard”?
3. What did the rest of the people see in the mirror?
4. What type of person is Carlin? What items were revealed by the narrator?
5. What type of person is Spangler? What items were revealed by the narrator?
6. Did you like the ending of the story? Why or why not? Why do you think many mysteries conclude with an open-ended conclusion?

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DETERMINING METHODS OF CHARACTERIZATION

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| --- |
|  Methods of Characterization Quotes   |
| Indirect Characterization |  |
| The character is revealed through his or her own speech. |  |
| The writer describes how the character looks and dresses. |  |
| The character’s private thoughts are revealed. |  |
| The writer reveals what other characters in the story say or think about the character. |  |
| The writer shows what the character does—how he or she acts. |  |
| Direct Characterization |  |
| The writer directly states what kind of person the character is: sneaky, honest, evil, innocent, and so on. |  |

Identifying Narrative Perspective Practice

**Directions:** Read the following passages, **UNDERLINE, CIRCLE, OR HIGHLIGHT WHEN THE NARRATOR TELLS US A CHARACTER’S THOUGHTS OR FEELINGS** and determine the narrative perspective, then explain how you were able to identify the point of view. If you need help, you may ask your teacher or a classmate.

|  |
| --- |
| **Narrative Perspective (point of view):** first-person, second-person, third-person objective, third-person limited, third-person omniscient. |

1. She went to her best friend’s house to study. When she got there, she started to wonder how big her best friend’s dog Jasper had gotten. They went outside and rode their bikes for 20 minutes, went back to the house to study, ate dinner, and then she went back home.

Narrative Perspective: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. One day Tina went to the movies. She went to see *Epic Movie*. Tina thought she should purchase a plate of nachos, a pop, and a box of candy, but her friend thought she shouldn’t. Tina purchased the food anyway.

Narrative Perspective: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. First, you will need to wash your hands and gather all of your materials. Once you’ve done that, follow all of the directions in your cookbook. Put your crispy teats in your oven and cook for 30-35. While your treats cook you might want to clean your working place. When you take the treats out of the oven, pour the honey and lemon sauce on immediately. Once the treats are cooled, you and your friends can enjoy.

Narrative Perspective: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. Timmy Turner was rushing to get to school because he was going on a field trip. Timmy felt so happy and excited that he was going on his first field trip of the year. Timmy thought that everything was going to go good that day.

Narrative Perspective: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. She went to her best friend’s house to study. When she got there, they rode their bikes for 20 minutes, went back to the house to study, ate dinner, and then went back home.

Narrative Perspective: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. Some dark night Shelly said, “I hate squirrels,” but really she loved them. Carol said, “They smell,” but really, she loved them too. Both of them thought that squirrels were pretty cute.

Narrative Perspective: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. When I went to the store, I witnessed a girl crying on the street and I took a closer look and saw it was my friend. I walked to where she was and asked her what was wrong. She said, “Family problems.” Being a good friend, I told her to call me later if she wanted to talk about it.

Narrative Perspective: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. Emma never seemed to reach her goal. She knew that her cookies were good but she could never raise the 500 dollars to enter the contest. None of the other contestants even looked her way.

Narrative Perspective: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10. Emma thought and she thought: *How can I make people notice me*? Then, Emma’s two twin nieces ran in the kitchen and asked Emma to make a batch of cookies for their class. She did, and the next day at the bake sale, lots of children and parents were buying her cookies. Lots of people were thinking about her cookies and how good they were. All the other years Emma would go home with over 200 cookies left, but that year she went home with none, all thanks to her nieces.

Narrative Perspective: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**““The Adventure of the Copper Beeches”**

**By**

**Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

Foil, point of view, mood, suspense

“The Adventure of the Copper Beeches”

1. What does the letter from Violet Hunter ask of Holmes?

2. Describe the gentleman with Miss Stoper. How does he react when he sees Miss Hunter?

3. Why does he offer her such a large sum of money?

4. What odd requests does the gentleman say he might make of his new governess? What is her reply?

5. What offer does the letter Miss Hunter receives make? What are the conditions?

1. How does Miss Hunter see out the window while she is sitting in the chair? What does she see?
2. A mastiff is a large dog. What is this dog’s job, and how does the owner ensure that he will do it well?
3. What odd thing does Miss Hunter find locked in her drawer? Where do you think it came from?
4. How does Mr. Rucastle explain the shuttered window of the abandoned wing? Do you believe him? Why or why not?
5. Describe what Miss Hunter sees when she steps into the normally locked hallway.
6. Describe Mr. Rucastle’s reaction when he learns what she has done.
7. What is Holmes’ explanation for the hiring of Miss Hunter?
8. Describe what Holmes and Watson find when they break down the door to the locked room.
9. Explain why Mr. Rucastle locked up his daughter. What has become of her?
10. From the moment Miss Hunter arrives at the home called the Copper Beeches, the mood is eerie, full of suspense. What details make it so?

16. Conan Doyle is well known for creating characters that seem real. What details about Mr. Rucastle make him realistic? What details make Miss Hunter seem real?

17-18. In literature a foil is a character who, by contrast, underlines or enhances the characteristics of another. Watson is Holmes’ foil, and students might be asked to find specific examples from one of the stories of how Holmes shines brighter for Watson’s inability to see what he considers obvious.

19-20. Now that you know the end of the story, it is easy to see why Mr. Rucastle wanted Miss Hunter to work for him. List all clues that should have told you what his real purpose was.

**““The Black Cat”**

**By**

**Edger Allen Poe**

Flashback, foreshadowing, suspense, symbolism, Character Traits

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“The Black Cat”

* **Suspense**: anxiety or apprehension resulting from an uncertain, undecided, or mysterious situation.  Edgar Allan Poe is the master of suspense.
* **Pacing**: advancing or developing something at a particular rate or tempo.  **Example**: It takes a while to discover exactly what happened to that cat the narrator killed.
* **Dangerous action**: self-explanatory.  **Example**: The narrator's violent moods creates trouble for everyone, including himself.
* **Foreshadowing**: a literary device in which the author gives clues as to what will happen later.  **Example**: We know the narrator has done something terrible. The story begins with him awaiting execution in a jail cell.

Find at least five examples of suspenseful moments in the story. Identify each moment as dangerous action, pacing, or foreshadowing. Analyze the suspenseful moment in the appropriate column.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Suspenseful Moment | Dangerous Action | Pacing | Foreshadowing. |
| The Black Cat begins with the narrator sitting in a cell talking about how he is about to be executed. |  |  | “For the most wild, yet most homely narrative which I am about to pen, I neither expect nor solicit belief” The reader knows that the flashback the narrator is about to tell ends up in a horrific crime. |
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* How does Poe use foreshadowing to create suspense?
* How does the dangerous actions of the narrator establish an ominous mood?
* How does knowing the narrator is awaiting execution as the story begins make it more or less suspenseful?

“The Black Cat”

1. How does the description of the cat as “sagacious” contribute to the meaning of the story?

2. What is the significance of the cat’s name, Pluto?

3. What is the significance of the narrator’s change of disposition from docile and tender to “more moody, more irritable and regardless of the feelings of others”?

4. Why did the narrator initially restrain himself from maltreating the cat while maltreating the other animals?

5. Why does he eventually mistreat the cat?

6. Describe the narrator’s feelings about abusing the cat? Why is that significant?

7. How does the narrator define “perverseness”? Do you agree with his definition? Do you agree that it is human nature?

8. Significance: “[I] hung it because I knew that it had loved me, and because I felt it had given me no reason of offence; because I knew that in doing so I was committing a sin.”

9. Discuss the significance of the fire. How does the narrator explain the phenomenon he discovers after the fire? What does the phenomenon symbolize?

10. What is significant about the new cat and his markings’? What does the cat symbolize?

11. Why is it significant that this cat will not leave the narrator alone?

12. How does the fact that the narrator kills his wife instead of the cat add to the meaning of the story?

13. What is significant about the narrator’s method in disposing of the body?

14. Discuss the significance, “I made no doubt that I could readily displace the bricks at this point, insert the corpse, and wall the whole thing up as before, so that no eye could detect anything suspicious.”

15. Why is the narrator able to sleep well after he conceals the body?

16. Significance: Once again I breathed as a free man.”

17. Why does the narrator feel triumphant when the police arrive?

18. List one example of **Poe's Frequent Use of Anaphora** (Anaphora is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is repeated at the beginning of a clause or another group of words. Anaphora imparts emphasis and balance).

19. How do you explain the ending? Discuss the symbolism.

Illustrate Implicit Characterizations

**Character’s Name**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Implied Character Trait:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Illustrate the Text: |  |  |
| Quote the Text: |  |  |

**Explain** how the text you quoted shows the implied character trait:

**“Lamb to the Slaughter”**

**By**

 **Ronald Dahl**

Irony, Characterization, Setting, Symbolism



“Lamb to the Slaughter”

1 What does the title of the story suggest about the storyline of Lamb to the Slaughter?

2. How does Dahl SHOW us the main characters and what they are like rather than just TELLING us straight out about their personalities?

3. Does he use indirect characterization or direct characterization to show the following personalities:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Character Indirect or Direct Characterization? | How do you know? How does Dahl do this? | Quote the story here. |
| Mary Malone |  |  |
| Patrick Malone |  |  |
| Sgt. Jack Noonan |  |  |
| Sam the Grocer |  |  |

4. What do you think Patrick told his wife when she came home?

5. Why doesn’t Dahl tell the reader exactly what he said to Mary?

1. Why was it a bad time to tell her this?
2. What do you think the setting of the story is like? Where in the world do you think this takes place?

8. Why is the title of the story important? What does it mean?

9. Describe one symbol from the story:

10. When in the story did you realize that this was a murder story? Why?

11. Is Mary Maloney guilty?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Story Passage How Passage Creates Irony | Story Passage How Passage Creates Irony |
| Story Passage How Passage Creates IronyMary Maloney walksup behind her husband and “without any pause”she swings the big frozen leg of lamb high in the air and brings it down as hard as she can on the back of his head. | • What type of irony is this: • Mary’s actions before this point in the story:• Mary’s actions now:• What actions you expected: |
| Mary begs the police to eat the leg of lamb saying, “It’d be a favor to me if you’d eat it up.” |  What type of irony is this: • Why the police think Mary wants them to finish the lamb:• Why she really wants the police to finish the lamb:• What is ironic about the police eating the lamb: |

**Irony Detectives Activity**

**Directions:** Read the following crime related ironic passages. Using the irony detectives answer sheet, determine which type of irony is used each passage based on clues that you find, then make your case.

1. Assault and Battery

Annie Allen loved her fiancé Scott. Annie loved him so much that he was all that she thought about all day. Feeling particularly in love with Scott, Annie thought that she’d surprise him with romance, so she snuck into his house using the spare key under his doormat and waited in his room for him to come home from a business trip. While waiting for him to come home, she thought the surprise might be even better if she hid in his closet. So she did. Twenty minutes later, she heard keys rustling in the lock. The door slammed, and then she heard the sound of feet walking up the stairs and Scott’s voice. “You know I can’t wait to see you, Baby,” she thought she heard Scott say. *He must be leaving me a message*, Annie pleasantly thought to herself. Then she heard Scott continue to talk. “No, she’s nothing serious. And besides, you know you’re the one I love, Katie.” Annie’s heart dropped. She grabbed the pepper spray from out of her purse, unlatched the safety, and felt her hand tense on the release button. Scott walked into the room, smiling and laughing as he flirted with Katie on the phone.

1. Assault and Battery

What type of irony is used in the passage?

Make your case (explain your answer):

2. Reckless Endangerment

Swanson Wisconsin was a famous child star. She had several platinum selling albums, her own TV sitcom, and a series of straight-to-DVD films that received terrible reviews but sold really well. Swanson Wisconsin was extremely wealthy and had the respect and admiration of millions of boys and girls around the world. She was everywhere. She was even the face of the antidrug movement. Swanson Wisconsin appeared on several commercials, billboards, and bus advertisements telling young people not to use drugs. All over the country the message was heard: “Be like Swanson Wisconsin. Think up. Don’t get high.” One fateful December evening, Swanson Wisconsin crashed her Bentley into hotdog stand. No one was injured, but Swanson Wisconsin was extremely disorientated. At the hospital, blood tests revealed that Swanson Wisconsin had enough crystal meth, cocaine, and tranquilizers in her system to murder an elephant.

2. Reckless Endangerment of Human Life

What type of irony is used in the passage?

Make your case (explain your answer):

3. Breaking and Entering

Jimmy the Lock was a master safecracker. He could bust open any safe in the world in under an hour using a crow bar, stethoscope, drill, and sledgehammer. No lock could hold Jimmy and that’s why they called him “the Lock.” Jimmy was scheduled to do a six-year stretch in Statesville for a bank job that got messy in suburbs, but he checked himself out before they could slam the cell door shut. Now Jimmy was set up to get the score of his life. He had the blueprints all laid out to do a job on an armored car diamond delivery. Gathering up all of his tools and gear, Jimmy headed out the door to meet his contact, Bobby the Rat, but when he got to his car, he couldn’t find his keys. He patted down his pockets before he realized that he must have left them in his other thieving-pants. Jimmy went back to get his keys, but the door wouldn’t open. Jimmy the Lock had locked himself out of his house.

3. Breaking and Entering

What type of irony is used in the passage?

Make your case (explain your answer):

4. Grand Theft Auto

Jack was on his way home from work when his wife Jill called him. He was in a hurry to get home and watch his favorite show, COPS, but Jill said that he needed to stop at the minimart to get some bread for dinner. Jack replied dutifully to his wife, “Yes, Dear.” When he got to the minimart, Jack was in such a hurry that he didn’t even pull into a parking spot. He just pulled up right next to the door. It was 6:58, and COPS was starting in two minutes, so Jack just left his car running and ran into the store. He grabbed the bread from the middle aisle and got in the line behind a skinny guy wearing a leather jacket. Jack tapped his foot impatiently as the man purchased lottery tickets. Finally, the clerk rang up Jack right as Jack’s watch read 6:59. Jack hurriedly completed the transaction and ran outside. As he went to jump into his car, he noticed that it was gone. He looked around a bit, but it was no where in sight. “Great,” Jack sighed. His watch read 7:01. “How wonderful,” he said to himself, as he reached in his pocket to call his wife.

4. Grand Theft Auto

What type of irony is used in the passage?

Make your case (explain your answer):

Make your case (explain your answer):

Test Yourself

Choose the correct answer to the question.

Post Test Analyzing a Short Story and Recognizing Elements of a Short Story

1. The feeling or atmosphere created when reading a story is called the
 a. Mood.
 b. Conflict.
 c. Climax.
 d. Setting.

2. The plot of a story starts off with a
 a. Climax.
 b. Rising action.
 c. Conflict.
 d. Theme.

3. The most exciting part of a story is called the
 a. Conflict.
 b. Falling action.
 c. Resolution.
 d. Climax.

4. The moral or lesson to be learned in a story is called the
 a. Conflict.
 b. Mood.
 c. Sequencing.
 d. Theme.

Please Read the Following Selection and Answer the Questions

Although Sherri was only seven years old, people always wanted to know what she wanted to be when she grew up. Her response was easy, a teacher. She had the perfect picture in her mind what her classes would look like and how they would behave. The only problem was that she didn't have any worksheets or materials to give to her imaginary class.

In class she watched the teacher walk over to her file cabinet and throw mounds of unused worksheets in the trash. "What a waste!" Sherri murmured to herself. An idea suddenly blossomed in her head. She would use the worksheets that had ended up in the trash. After school, when the halls were clear of students and teachers, she sneaked into Mrs. Smith's class, her first grade classroom and grabbed the discarded worksheets. Feeling confident that she had accomplished her mission, she walked around the corner with her new teaching materials under her arms. A loud, booming voice startled her as the janitor yelled, "What are you doing here? Go home!"

Sherri didn't wait to respond to his questions as she ran out of the school's front doors. As she walked home, she kept looking behind her to see if the janitor had followed her. Safely home, she closed her bedroom door and announced to her imaginary students, "Good morning, students. Today you are going to learn about nouns and verbs. I am going to pass out a few worksheets and explain the assignment to you."

5. Sherri searched in the trash for
 a. Her homework.
 b. Her lunch.
 c. Money.
 d. Unused worksheets.

6. Sherri can be best described as
 a. Goal orientated (she knows what she would like to do).
 b. Shy.
 c. Angry.
 d. Moody.

7. Sherri's imaginary class is located in the
 a. Dining room.
 b. School.
 c. Library.
 d. Her bedroom.

8. What was the last event of the story?
 a. The janitor yelled at her.
 b. She ran out of the school.
 c. She walked home.
 d. She greeted her imaginary class.

9. Sherri's conflict at the beginning of the story is
 a. She doesn't have any teaching material.
 b. She doesn't know what she wants to do when she grows up.
 c. That the janitor catches her sneaking into the trash.
 d. That her teacher doesn't recycle.

10. Which one of the following is a major character?
 a. Mrs. Smith
 b. Sherri
 c. imaginary class
 d. janitor

