

Name: _____

Date: _____

Recognizing Plot: *The Sea Devil*

Selection Test

Comprehension

1. In the opening of the story, we learn that *The Sea Devil*
 - a. takes place in Vermont, and is about a child who loves the sea.
 - b. is set on board the good ship *Tasmania*, where the sailors have fallen ill from a mysterious illness.
 - c. unfolds in late September; the central character is a Florida man who works with his head, not his hands.
 - d. is the name of a skiff used for lagoon fishing.

2. Early on, we are told that the central character likes cast fishing at night, because
 - a. the mullet are fat now and make a good meal.
 - b. the neighbors also go out at night, and fishing is fun with company.
 - c. a cast net is heavy, and this shows the fish how strong he really is.
 - d. it has a reality that seems to be missing from daily life and work in the 20th century.

3. Why does the author tell us the story of the baby porpoise?
 - a. He wants to say that the man is a hunter, but he is not cruel.
 - b. The porpoise that hits the giant ray with its tail near the end of the story is the granddaughter of that baby porpoise.
 - c. The man worries that a porpoise will eat all of the mullet, because porpoises are known to be greedy.
 - d. He is showing the reader early on that this story is *not* humorous.

4. "Now at last he knew how the fish must feel when the line tightens and drags him toward the alien element that is his doom." This means,
 - a. the man finally realizes how frightening it is to meet an alien.
 - b. at last he knows how a fish feels as it is reeled in, to be pulled up into the air where it can't breathe and will die.
 - c. he finally understands the expression, *fish or cut bait*.
 - d. now he knows why his mother shouted, "Take swimming lessons!"

5. Put the statements in the correct order by writing the numbers 1-4 on the lines:
____ He decided he would wait until he saw two swirls close together.
____ The mullet slapped convulsively with its tail. The man picked it up, and let it go.
____ He could last another forty or fifty seconds; and then the red flashes behind his eyes would merge into darkness.
____ The man went into the garage, where his cast net hung.

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6. When people are faced with death, it is said that *their life passes before them*. When the main character is dragged by the giant ray, he sees images of
- his brand new car, which he'll never get to drive now.
 - the stock market pages from the *Wall Street Journal*.
 - the front lawn, which he has just mowed.
 - his wife at home, reading and waiting for his return, and of the mullet in the skiff gasping its life away.

Primary Lesson in Literature: Focusing on the Plot

- The *exposition* comes at
 - the beginning.
 - the middle.
 - the end.
 - None of the above.
- Every story has
 - some sad parts.
 - some happy parts.
 - a surprise.
 - a plot.

Theme

- The story makes it clear that nearly losing one's life can
 - have a humbling effect.
 - make one see things with new eyes.
 - cause images from one's life to pass before one's eyes.
 - All of the above.
- The Sea Devil* reminds us that
 - once a hunter finds out what it is like to be hunted, he may become more sympathetic to the animals he once hunted and killed.
 - it's good to have a porpoise around the house.
 - a *fish story* is an improbable, boastful tale.
 - a fish out of water will surely die.

Teacher's Edition Answer Guide

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2. Early on, we are told that the central character likes cast fishing at night, because
 - d. it has a reality that seems to be missing from daily life and work in the 20th century.
3. Why does the author tell us the story of the baby porpoise?
 - a. He wants to say that the man is a hunter, but he is not cruel.
4. "Now at last he knew how the fish must feel when the line tightens and drags him toward the alien element that is his doom." This means,
 - b. at last he knows how a fish feels as it is reeled in, to be pulled up into the air where it can't breathe and will die.
5. Put the statements in the correct order by writing the numbers 1-4 on the lines:
 4. The man went into the garage, where his cast net hung.
 1. He decided he would wait until he saw two swirls close together.
 3. He could last another forty or fifty seconds; and then the red flashes behind his eyes would merge into darkness.
 2. The mullet slapped convulsively with its tail. The man picked it up, and let it go.
6. When people are faced with death, it is said that *their life passes before them*. When the main character is dragged by the giant ray, he sees images of
 - d. his wife at home, reading and waiting for his return, and of the mullet in the skiff gasping its life away.

Primary Lesson in Literature: Focusing on the Plot

1. The *exposition* comes at
 - a. the beginning.
2. Every story has
 - d. a plot.

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1. The story makes it clear that nearly losing one's life can
 - d. All of the above.
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 - a. once a hunter finds out what it is like to be hunted, he may become more sympathetic to the animals he once hunted and killed.

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Recognizing Plot: The Sea Devil

Vocabulary Test

Instructions:

Pick the answer that fits the meaning of the vocabulary word.

1. Uncle Gridley cried, "Our attempts are *futile!* We might as well stop." He meant that our attempts were
 - a. already producing results.
 - b. offensive to the neighbors.
 - c. exhausting.
 - d. useless.

2. His brother, Uncle Grady, answered irritably, "Will you stop *impeding* our progress?!" Uncle Grady thought Uncle Gridley was
 - a. an obstacle to completing the task.
 - b. having a breakdown.
 - c. really ridiculous.
 - d. terribly funny.

3. Sister Griselda chimed in, "The two of you are like the monster from the black *lagoon.*" She likes to use the word, *lagoon*, because she
 - a. once worked in a bank.
 - b. likes to swim in shallow water near the sand dunes.
 - c. walks each day near the park.
 - d. just got her pilot's license.

4. I looked in the mirror and shrieked. My face was all *mottled!* How could I go outside if my skin
 - a. was peeling from Sunday's sunburn?
 - b. had the texture of sandpaper?
 - c. looked like a mask?
 - d. was all blotchy and marked with spots?

5. Since the plumber's visit last Thursday, my father complains that when he turns on the faucet, it's a *torrent* of water! He hates it when
 - a. there's just a trickle.
 - b. the water gushes out violently.
 - c. the water is brown with rust.
 - d. it's harder to use the faucet than the well. Who can blame him?

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6. Genevieve had been working hard and groaned when she saw the mess. “Is there no *respite*?” she asked. She meant, “Is there no...
 - a. maid?”
 - b. vacuum cleaner?”
 - c. rest or relief?”
 - d. plumber?”

7. Auntie said, “Darling, we cannot go to the fair *and* the book club, because they are occurring *simultaneously*.” Fran had forgotten that
 - a. the events were in different cities.
 - b. Auntie had been taking yoga.
 - c. the fair and the book club would keep him up past his bedtime.
 - d. they were at the same time.

8. The curved claws of most predators enable them to hold on to their prey *tenaciously*. This means that meat-eaters can
 - a. rip their prey apart quickly.
 - b. hold their prey fast and firmly.
 - c. grasp their prey gently.
 - d. eat without using a napkin.

9. The invention of the plow was crucial to early agriculture, because it enabled people to create a *furrow* in a field. This means people
 - a. more easily dug a trench in the ground for planting seed.
 - b. erected stone walls, so the bunnies didn’t eat the carrots.
 - c. removed rocks, with the plow’s mechanical rock remover.
 - d. built arbors for their grapes.

10. Deb was excited. They had said her dad’s arrival was *imminent*. She knew
 - a. he was very important.
 - b. he was superior!
 - c. he would be home soon.
 - d. he had enjoyed his trip to the moon.

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