

SIXTEEN: SHORT STORIES BY
OUTSTANDING WRITERS
FOR YOUNG ADULTS

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LIVING
LITERATURE
SERIES

A PERMA-BOUND PRODUCTION

TEACHER'S GUIDE

GUIDE WRITTEN BY MARY ELLEN SNODGRASS

SYNOPSIS

The first segment of this collection of stories is entitled *Friendships* because it emphasizes relationships between teenagers. In "I, Hungry Hannah Cassandra Glen," the title character takes Crow to the funeral parlor to view the remains of August Francher so that they will be invited to Mrs. Francher's home. After insinuating their way in to "pay their respects," the hungry twosome, who never get enough to eat at home, line their pockets with food and stuff themselves until they can hold no more.

Rosalind, the main character of "May I Have Your Autograph?", follows her friend Wendy to the Dominion Imperial International Hotel to get an autograph from Craig the Cat. When Wendy explains to Craig how she knows his habits and preferences, he treats her to a snack and accepts her friendship.

The third story about friendship, "Midnight Snack," describes Beth and Jerry's mission of mercy taking food they have scavenged from grocery store garbage cans to the hungry unicorns inhabiting the subway tunnels. After his first experience with the graceful, shy animals, Jerry decides that Beth's father, who began the traditional night feedings, did it out of love.

The second set of stories is entitled *Turmoils*. "Pigeon Humor," the first in the series, depicts the emotional turmoil of Tracy, whose father died at the home of Cherry, his girlfriend. As she wills herself to endure a band concert after her return from the funeral home, Tracy finds herself unable to hold back the mixture of feelings she has stored up inside.

The second story of *Turmoils*, "Priscilla and the Wimps," reveals the strength of a tall female who manages to intimidate the Kobras, a gang which terrorizes the student body in general and her friend Melvin in particular. She ends the reign of Monk Klutter by imprisoning him in her locker.

In "Welcome," Tina finds herself on a long trip to the back roads of Texas where her mother Mary and Aunt Dessie hunt for Noella, a long-lost relative who remembers Tina's father James with fondness. Tina suffers through the pleasantries of the visit before exploding from inner pain at her parents' separation and her mother's inability to accept the situation as irreversible.

The last in the set, "Future Tense" describes the labors of a budding science fiction writer named Gary who fantasizes that his teachers are humanoids. When Gary is confronted by the principal, Dr. Proctor, he discovers too late that his teachers are normal, but Dr. Proctor is an alien.

Loves, the third section, begins with the social concerns of June in "Turmoil in a Blue and Beige Bedroom," who

declines to leave her room until she receives the all-important call from John, whom she expects to ask her to Nancy's party. The five calls that intervene gradually change her mind. By the time John issues the expected invitation, she has decided that a big group is more appropriate than couples.

The relationship of Dottie Landon and Jack Raab in "Furlough—1944" advances from friendship to more serious involvement when Jack spends his last night at the beach with Dottie before leaving for combat duty in England. Although Jack pressures Dottie to accept further intimacy, he stops short of influencing her to commit herself to an act she may regret.

The last story of love, "Do You Want My Opinion?", reveals a world turned upside down in which casual relationships are expressed in loving terms, whereas intimacies are characterized by the exchange of personal opinions. John, who wants a closer relationship with Lauren, settles for kisses and caresses when he really longs to ask Lauren's opinions about Vonnegut's writing and the political situation in the Middle East.

The first story of *Decisions*, "Fourth of July," shows a teen-ager who is in a position to take vengeance on Sager, an old adversary who supposedly stole two hundred dollars from his room. When Sager drives his showy Buick into the service station for a fill-up, Chuck at first claims that the station is closed. After Sager convinces Chuck that he must have eight dollars' worth of gas, Chuck fools Sager by pumping the fuel into a gas can. Chuck passes up an opportunity to hurl an M-80 firecracker into Sager's car and consoles himself with the thought of Sager's car chugging to a stop from lack of fuel.

In "Three People and Two Seats," Dave, a disgruntled classroom teacher, accepts the offer of a seat beside two teenagers, Brian and Kenny. During their immature exchange of gossip and horsing around, the boys learn that Dave is a teacher. They at first doubt that Dave is telling the truth and pinpoint the problem that has plagued his first months of work—his ease with young people.

A second example of the struggles of a teacher assume central importance in "An Ordinary Woman," in which Armanda Brooks spends a few minutes of her morning repairing the damage her daughter Caren has done to Armanda's life and house. When a former student shows respect for Armanda while he changes the lock on her house, Armanda takes heart as she ponders the effect of locking out her own daughter. She concludes that Caren, who has set fire to the bed and disappeared, will have to

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accept her mother's tough form of love.

The last series of stories, *Families*, depicts a far-away setting in its fable-like opening story, "The Gift-Giving." Granny, whose vision has faded, is able to identify the lavish, exotic gifts of her sons, Emer, Acraud, Gonfil, and Mark, each time they return to their mountain home from their wanderings. Uncle Mark, who dies during a raid by Wild tribesmen, leaves Granny lonely, inconsolable, and no longer able to guess what presents her sons bring home. In an effort to restore her spirits and her gift for guessing, young Mark tries to imitate Uncle Mark's mystical musical by creating a similar flute and playing songs until he finds one as close as possible to the original. When Granny hears the tune, she is once more able to name the treasures brought from afar.

Gogi, the speaker in "She," faces the challenge of Dorine, a nit-picky stepmother who enslaves Gogi and Linda in unending household drudgery. When Gogi realizes that both her father and sister are turning against her, she attempts to evade work by hiding in the bathroom and losing herself in fiction. Dorine ensnares her stepdaughter by waiting patiently until Gogi opens the door and returns her to the tasks left undone.

The speaker of the last story in the series is a father who tries to cope with his wife's long illness and death. His memories return to hot days in the tenement when his own father showed compassion by allowing him to stay up later at night and enjoy the cooler temperatures. Avoiding a direct look at his wife's corpse, he and his son Richy follow the ritual of greeting well-wishers when he at last faces the casket and resigns himself to his loss. His memories of a loving parent inspire his attempts to strengthen a relationship with Richy, who has done his best to comfort his grieving father.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To identify the elements of a short story—plot, character, setting, tone, mood, and theme.
2. To contrast similar characters in their responses to ordinary challenges of life.
3. To compare the reader's own responses to the pains of growing up with those of fictional characters.
4. To isolate and explain common themes in fiction, such as loss, fear, love, family loyalty, friendship, isolation, and choice.
5. To explore dialogue for clues to the individual traits which set each character apart from the others.
6. To place each work of fiction in a time and place which gives the story its framework for meaning.
7. To express the mood of each story as revealed by an assembled body of clues.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To explain the logic behind the organization of stories

under the heading of Friendships, Turmoils, Loves, Decisions, and Families.

2. To identify fantasy as a style of expression in "Midnight Snack" and "Future Tense" and to discuss its purpose in each story.
3. To identify the qualities of fable found in "The Gift-Giving" and to explain their purpose.
4. To explain the workings of anger and frustration in "She," "Welcome," and "Priscilla and The Wimps."
5. To locate and analyze different types of humor, such as incongruity, puns, satire, irony, bathos, and sarcasm.
6. To isolate examples of unfair stereotyping of teenage behavior.

MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have a particular meaning in the story. Explain the meaning each has in this book. Page numbers are given so that you can note the context from which the item is taken.

1. trapezoid, (p. 74)
(a plane figure with four sides only two of which are parallel. The study of such two-dimensional figures is a common assignment for geometry students.)
2. "when the winds of Michaelmas began to blow," (p. 135)
(the feast of the archangel Michael, celebrated on September 29, ushers in the cold fall winds, suggesting the coming of winter and the return of the uncles from their long journey.)
3. "a march by John Philip Sousa," (p. 39)
(The American march king, who lived from 1854-1932, was famous for songs that have become standard works for military parades and national events, such as "The Stars and Stripes Forever" and "Semper Fidelis.")
4. (aka Crow), (p. 10)
(a bit of police jargon indicating the use of an alias, the letters stand for "also known as.")
5. "Maybe there's some kind of therapy in it," (p. 157)
(Richy's father considers the mental health benefits of observing traditional funeral customs, which may relieve the pain of losing his wife Ruth.)
6. "Did he have to play Jekyll and Hyde?" (p. 122)
(a pair of characters imprisoned in one body from a nineteenth century short novel by Robert Louis Stevenson, these two names have come to symbolize contrasting behavior in one human being. Dave ponders the duality of his life as a teacher and a person, which is the crux of his choice to give up teaching.)
7. "like Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers," (p. 87)

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(Dottie fantasizes that she and Jack move as easily together as the well known dancing couple of the forties who starred in light, romantic movies.)

8. probate, (p. 35)
(Tracy's mother considers the legal entanglements that follow a death, such as the process of proving that a will is genuine.)
9. humanoids, (p. 68)
(creatures who exhibit human characteristics of behavior and appearance. Gary's story about alien teachers hinges on his ability to identify these imitation human beings.)
10. claustrophobic. (p. 75)
(abnormally fearful of being confined to a small, enclosed space, such as a closet or elevator.)
11. "wired for Muzak," (p. 39)
(bland, monotonous recordings used as background music in elevators, restaurants, stores, and telephone lines.)
12. "as exciting as tofu," (p. 61)
(a tasteless, custardlike food made from jellied soybeans and used in various cooked dishes which require the addition of protein; a meat substitute.)
13. "gave you flak," (p. 103)
(offered strong criticism or opposition.)

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

Questions 1-5 Literal Level

1. How does Gogi escape from the harsh realities of her life in "She"?
(Gogi's belligerent response to a stepmother leads to more unsettled home relations and an intensified need to escape. Gogi faces the changes in her life—the loss of her mother and her family's lowered status after Harry loses his restaurant—by reading fiction. She hides a science fiction magazine beneath the dirty clothes for late night escape from dishwashing and continues to read fairy tales despite her father's command that she read only school books. She notes condemnation in Dorine's eyes at their first meeting: "When she looked back at me, her eyes said: What are you doing reading in this miserable room instead of doing something useful around this terrible house? My eyes answered: What's it to you?")
2. Why does Jack Raab decide not to press Dottie for a more intimate relationship in "Furlough—1944"?
(As Jack considers the dangers of the war in Europe,

he fears dying young, while he is still a virgin. Yet, he is unable to take advantage of Dottie's willingness when he considers her point of view—she is willing to concede as a means of pleasing him. He invisions himself as the noble, macho protector of womanhood: "Then we won't," he said and felt like Clark Gable masterfully reassuring the trembling young girl." For Jack the denial of his sexual urge is an important sign of manhood.)

3. How does Priscilla deflate Monk Klutter's ego in "Priscilla and the Wimps"?
(Priscilla chooses the perfect home shot for a bully when she pretends that she has never heard of him. His lieutenant's response reveals how cleverly she has wounded him: "First he's chopped by a girl, and now she's acting like she doesn't know Monk Klutter, the Head Honcho of the World. He's so amazed, he tells her.")
4. How has Sager intimidated Chuck in past years in "Fourth of July"?
(Sager has pulled a number of mean tricks, such as offering Chuck a soapsuds milkshake, forging his name on a dirty note to a girl, and cheating from Chuck's paper during a biology exam. The stolen money and implication to the police that Chuck was concealing drugs are two examples of how far his malignant mind has gone past childish mischief.)
5. Why does Crow reject Hannah's reason for condemning suicide in "I, Hungry Hannah Cassandra Glen . . ."?
(Hannah ends her list of reasons—you're too young, you don't understand what you are saying—with the clincher, that suicide is against the law. Crow hoots at her logic, "Oh, dear, dear, dear. I forgot that. After I stick my head in the oven some night, they're going to arrest my corpse and send it to jail for life." Hannah, abandoning logic and aiming for sentiment, replies, "I don't want you dead. So just forget it.")

Questions 6-8 Interpretive Level

6. How does Noella reveal her love to Tina in "Welcome"?
(Tina describes herself in Noella's welcoming hug as "helpless as a rock being broken by long gentle pressure." Noella soothes Tina's fears of Arley, a retarded adult, and pats her skirt dry when Tina spills tea. After Tina blurts out her fears that her parents are permanently parted, Noella offers no philosophy, only "Bless your heart." Guiding Mary, Aunt Dessie, and Tina to her husband's grave, Noella reacts to Mary's tears with "Oh, precious . . . Are you sick?" Noella's kind of love requires no commitment, no explanations—only acceptance.)
7. What aspect of motherhood does Armanda Brooks find most painful in "An Ordinary Woman"?
(Armanda admits that Caren's early demands were

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easily satisfied: "A fresh diaper, a bottle of warm milk, or maybe a song or two while you slept in my arms. That was all the magic I owned, but in your eyes, all power rested in my hands." The insidious power of drug addiction is more than Armanda can cope with. She is unable to accept Caren's failures as an adult because they remind her that she is powerless to change them and that, since Steve's death and Caren's disappearance, she is alone.)

8. How does Sammlle's recall of Uncle Mark's song echo the composition of the original tune in "The Gift-Giving"?

(Uncle Mark hears his original tune as an outcry of the mountain, which reminds him to be careful of the dangers in nature. He describes it as "a gentle, thoughtful tune . . . of springtime sounds, warm wind, water from melted snow dripping off the gabled roofs, birds trying out their mating calls." When Sammlle struggles to revive the old song, she remembers it after a similar encounter with nature: "a wild, windy evening; the sun set in fire, the wind moaned among the fir trees, and gusts of sleet every now and then dashed in their faces." As Uncle Emer's precautionary "Take care" echoes down the rocky walls, Sammlle's mind reproduces the tune which Uncle Mark had played.)

Questions 9 and 10 Critical Level

9. How does Julie Angell capture the subjective urge of teenagers to blame the outside world for their troubles in "Turmoil in a Blue and Beige Bedroom"?

(June is trapped in a subjective interpretation of reality. She longs to visit with friends, go to the arcade, and rid herself of the problems of geometry tests and a date for Nancy's party. Because John does not rescue her in the style she has mentally devised for him, she blames him for her captivity in the blue and beige bedroom. As she explains the situation to herself, "If John calls now I'll know I was right all along. I am special. I am different. I am leading a charmed life. I will get everything I desperately want because I was born under a lucky star and everything will be perfect and beautiful forever.")

10. How does M.E. Kerr satirize the standard advice to teenagers about intimacy in "Do You Want My Opinion"?

(The parents and teachers deliver the usual lectures to John about the dangers of intimacy, which they perceive in John's serious conversation with Eleanor Rossi. As John's father concludes, "But one thought leads to another. Before you know it, you'll be exploring all sorts of ideas together, knowing each other so well you'll finish each other's sentences." He summarizes his advice in two admonitions, "Stick to lovemaking." and "Don't discuss ideas.")

Question 11 Creative Level

11. Write a critical letter to Donald R. Gallo, editor of *Sixteen*, expressing why you agree or disagree with his choice of stories for a book aimed specifically at teenagers. Cite examples from the stories which justify your point of view. Offer suggestions for improving the book.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Choose a passage to act out with other members of your class. Insert additional comments in the dialogue if the situation is unclear to your audience. Try to capture the attitude and tone of the character you are portraying by imagining yourself in a similar situation.
2. Compose your own humorous will similar to David Alpern's in "I, Hungry Hannah Cassandra Glen" in which you leave selected items to your family and friends.
3. Make an imaginary telephone call to Armanda Brooks in which you question her about the fire. Compose a short newspaper account which includes information about Caren's disappearance. Make up details that are missing, such as time and place.
4. Write a report explaining the different levels of mental retardation. Describe a modern work/residence plan for an adult like Arley in "Welcome."
5. Make a timeline of the events of World War II during 1944. Emphasize the part played by England and the United States in the liberation of Europe from Nazi power.
6. Sketch a scene in which the two teenagers of "Midnight Snack" feed unicorns from bags of leftovers. Highlight the subway paraphernalia and city lights in contrast to the dark hiding place of the shy animals.
7. Write a paragraph describing the story which has the most fitting title. Choose another story which could be improved by a change in the title and explain why your choice is better.
8. Write an extended definition of slang and give examples from several stories. Rewrite each example in standard English.
9. Search through books on genealogy for information about last names in America. Which name is most common? How common is your own last name? Why does Robert Lipsyte choose Smith and Jones as commonplace names for the teachers in "Future Tense"?
10. Describe a favorite short story which you think would fit into this collection. Under which of the five headings on pp. xi-xii would it belong? What qualities cause it to fit the overall title, *Sixteen*?

VOCABULARY TEST

Part I:

Fill in each of the blanks in the following quotations from the stories with vocabulary words found in the list below. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- _____ 1. I'll try to give you the _____ version.
- _____ 2. I was through the _____ and a good way down the platform when he hollered after me again.
- _____ 3. . . . The children, with the servants and half the village, would go racing down the perilous zigzag track to meet the _____ at the bottom.
- _____ 4. My mother began to cry, huge tears filling her cheeks' crevices, her mouth _____, her eyes desperate.
- _____ 5. Toward the end, despite her brave _____, her insistent smiles, I knew that she knew.
- _____ 6. Recently, he discovered the English language and has run _____ with puns.
- _____ 7. When Uncle Emer handed her a slender, soft package, she received it _____, almost with dislike . . .
- _____ 8. It's just I know how _____ it can be when your father dies.
- _____ 9. At the opening assembly, he felt on edge, _____, like a boxer before the first-round bell.
- _____ 10. Every _____ of information, fragment of fact, morsel of minutiae sucked up by those vacuuming eyes was beamed directly into a computer circling the planet.
- _____ 11. Could that skinny, bespectacled earthling really suspect its _____ identity?
- _____ 12. I really do think big groups are so much more _____, don't you?
- _____ 13. She was the talker, the outgoing one—the _____.
- _____ 14. Chuck draws the _____ carefully across the windshield and lets it sink back into the bucket of water at his feet.
- _____ 15. It was a tune that he had heard for the first time, he said, when he was much younger, once when he had narrowly escaped falling into a _____ on the hillside. . .

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| A. abridged | F. congenial | K. extrovert |
| B. amok | G. countenance | L. iota |
| C. apathetically | H. crevasse | M. psyched |
| D. askew | I. devastating | N. squeegee |
| E. cavalcade | J. extraterrestrial | O. turnstile |

Part II: Using what you have learned

- 1. Which word in the list above is a letter of the Greek alphabet? _____
- 2. Which word means shortened? a fissure? _____, _____
- 3. Which word is an antonym for calm? aligned? _____, _____
- 4. Change the prefix of extrovert to give an opposite meaning. _____

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5. Which word contains a root word meaning horse? _____
6. Which word contains the same root word as terrarium? empathy? _____, _____
7. Write a sentence in which you explain how a squeegee is used.

8. Write a sentence in which you explain why turnstiles are necessary.

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COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Multiple Choice (30 points)

Select an answer which completes each of the following statements. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- _____ 1. Armanda Brooks asks for help for her daughter from (a) Jeannette, the school secretary (b) Steve, Armanda's dead husband (c) Big Joe Famori and the Malden Eagles (d) David, the locksmith.
- _____ 2. Lauren shocks Mr. Porter by giving her opinion of (a) her dreams (b) school (c) old Beatles' music (d) *The Catcher in the Rye*.
- _____ 3. Chuck wishes that the judge had (a) made Sager repay the money (b) sent Sager to jail (c) taken fingerprints (d) accused Sager of drug possession.
- _____ 4. When Selma and Greenie return to the car, Dottie and Jack (a) go to the White Castle (b) decide to stay on the beach (c) discuss other people they have dated (d) make up a story for Dottie's parents so she won't be grounded.
- _____ 5. After Gary talks with Jim Baggs, Gary decides to (a) complain to the principal about Mr. Smith's unfair grading (b) write a science fiction story about extraterrestrials (c) be himself (d) expose Mr. Smith as an alien.
- _____ 6. Richy reminds his father of Ruth's (a) enjoyment of puns (b) dislike of her husband's early morning drinking habits (c) gifts to the family during the Depression (d) love of the sun.
- _____ 7. Wendy and Rosalind discover that (a) Craig dislikes hotels and coffee shops (b) the hotel manager knows they are seeking autographs (c) Craig's mother is his manager (d) Craig loves to have his picture in the papers.
- _____ 8. Beth learns about unicorns (a) after she and Jerry find two at the subway entrance (b) when her father tells her about them (c) while rummaging about behind the A&P (d) when Jerry sees one in Central Park.
- _____ 9. Tracy explains that she is laughing at (a) the pigeon joke (b) her father's death in Cherry's apartment (c) Rachel's band recital (d) the after-dinner mints.
- _____ 10. The odd fact about Melvin Detweiler is that (a) he chooses to hang around with Klutter's Kobras (b) he carries a bag containing rest-room passes and a switchblade (c) he fits so neatly into Priscilla's locker (d) Priscilla, his friend, is so much taller than he is.
- _____ 11. Dorine seems to look down on Linda and Gogi (a) because they are lazy (b) after Harry marries her (c) because they are West Indians (d) after her American friends come to visit.
- _____ 12. Sammlle suggests that Mark (a) go on the next expedition with their uncles (b) find the perfect gift to cheer up Granny (c) is a wicked boy (d) make a pipe like Uncle Mark's.
- _____ 13. Brian and Kenny give evidence that (a) they are veteran smokers (b) they dislike all teachers (c) they are saving their seat for someone else (d) they made up the white card from the Newfoundland Teachers Association.
- _____ 14. Mrs. Atwater tells June that (a) Nancy's party is for couples only (b) Phyllis is at the arcade (c) John never goes stag to parties (d) big groups are more congenial than couples.
- _____ 15. Mary is angry at Tina because (a) Tina made a diaper bag for Sharon (b) Tina made Arley cry (c) Aunt Noella has detained them from their original destination (d) Tina gave Sharon the key to the house.

Part II: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements **T** for true or **F** if any part is false.

- _____ 1. Hannah likes Mr. Francher because he never embarrasses Hannah about her family's debt at the groceteria.

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- _____ 2. Mr. Porter scolds Lauren for holding John's hand in public.
- _____ 3. The unicorns keep their horns sharp enough to draw blood.
- _____ 4. Dottie feels love for Jack, but she fears her friends will make fun of the gunner's wings he gave her.
- _____ 5. The vice-principal encourages Gary to continue writing science fiction stories.
- _____ 6. Craig prefers being photographed in his cat costume.
- _____ 7. Gogi wishes that Dorine wore soft furs like Mama always wore.
- _____ 8. Noella flatters Tina by telling her how much she looks like Jimmie.
- _____ 9. Armanda hopes Caren will understand why the lock has been changed.
- _____ 10. Priscilla astounds the Kobra by asking the name of his leader.

Part III: Fill-In (20 points)

Fill-in a word which completes the following statements. Place your answer in the blank provided at left.

- _____ 1. Jack and Dottie climb up an old _____ platform and look at the horizon.
- _____ 2. Chuck throws the lighted M-80 into a container of _____.
- _____ 3. The messenger proves that his story is true by bringing back Uncle Mark's _____.
- _____ 4. June claims to be alone in her room studying _____.
- _____ 5. The Kobra tries to extort a dwarf _____ from Melvin.
- _____ 6. Jerry thinks that unicorns allow only _____ to touch them.
- _____ 7. August Francher used to refer to Hannah as _____.
- _____ 8. Caren's gift to Armanda was a _____ decorated with miniature red hearts.
- _____ 9. The uncles always presented their gifts to Granny on _____ Day.
- _____ 10. Dr. Proctor freezes Gary by tapping tiny buttons on his _____.

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

- 1. Compare Richey's father and Armanda Brooks in terms of their reactions to loss.

- 2. Describe how Tina confesses her fears about her father to Noella.

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COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Matching (30 points)

Match parts of quotations from the stories. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left.

- _____ 1. Are they staying home on a perfectly gorgeous Saturday afternoon
- _____ 2. It was as if the keystone of an arch had been knocked out;
- _____ 3. There were also a couple of moments, dazzling in their pain,
- _____ 4. Then, with the rumble of fireworks in his ears, he jogs to meet Kate,
- _____ 5. I loved him at that moment with a love that took me by surprise and left me astonished,
- _____ 6. Once he'd told me that long ago
- _____ 7. Tell them your hobby is collecting
- _____ 8. You can always tell the ones in love
- _____ 9. After she got laid off at the paper-bag factory,
- _____ 10. Nothing that lives in a subway should be
- _____ 11. Hadn't she driven miles out of her way
- _____ 12. He thought: Every champion knows that
- _____ 13. Out there, beyond the horizon, on the other side of the water,
- _____ 14. It had been a hard decline
- _____ 15. When you were a little thing,

- A. my mother began buying powdered milk instead of whole milk.
- B. he'd had a little sister who died, and her name, too, was Hannah.
- C. that proud, and that hungry, and feel that helpless.
- D. when she thought about her father and how he no longer existed.
- E. to give her side of things to my father's aunts before he did?
- F. little keys that lock out the things in your life that scare you.
- G. as hard as it is to get to the top, it's even harder to stay up there.
- H. waiting for a date for Nancy's party or are they going out?
- I. was the war.
- J. by their passionate gestures as they get into conversations.
- K. taking surprisingly little satisfaction from the thought that very soon Sager may be stalled out on a dark, lonely road.
- L. from the eagerness and confidence that he had arrived with at this same bus stop in September.
- M. I knew exactly how to make your tears go away.
- N. there was nothing to hold the people together.
- O. awed by the fact that he understood how a kid never wants to go to bed.

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Part II: Matching (20 points)

Match the character with his words. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left. You will have answers left over when you finish.

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| _____ 1. I know this is a class on thoughts, but we have to have <i>some</i> modesty. | A. Arley |
| _____ 2. . . . I cannot see it without Mark's music to help me. | B. Crow |
| _____ 3. Everybody should have a will. | C. Chuck |
| _____ 4. Tell me now, what would you boys do if you had me for a teacher? | D. Dave |
| _____ 5. You can't have your ache and heat it too. | E. Dottie |
| _____ 6. I'm nice . . . Don't cry. | F. Granny |
| _____ 7. It was just such a nice evening that I decided to walk. | G. Jerry |
| _____ 8. You wouldn't know which side of your nose to put the marijuana up. | H. June |
| _____ 9. We are <i>not</i> all alike, Mom, in spite of what you parents think! | I. Leonard |
| _____ 10. You're lucky they didn't find your stash in your bureau that night. | J. Mr. Porter |
| | K. Richy |
| | L. Sager |

Part III: Identification (20 points)

Name the titles of individual stories in which these events take place.

- _____ 1. A gas station attendant puts a firecracker in his pocket.
- _____ 2. A girl finds a squashed head of lettuce behind the Shop-Rite.
- _____ 3. Two boys receive a gift of paper trays of french fries.
- _____ 4. A singer spends weeks on the road.
- _____ 5. Mary promises to give Sharon some bootees.
- _____ 6. School closes for a week because of a blizzard.
- _____ 7. A man whose lucky number is twelve stays in room 1212 on the twelfth floor.
- _____ 8. A girl tells her boy friend that water is destined to play a part in their lives.
- _____ 9. A repairman calls his former teacher lucky.
- _____ 10. A girl fears that powder blue has become her trademark.

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

- 1. Compare the struggles of Gary and Gogi against authority.

- 2. Explain why it is hard for Tracy to express her grief when her father dies.

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VOCABULARY TEST ANSWER KEY

Part I:

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. A | 6. B | 11. J |
| 2. O | 7. C | 12. F |
| 3. E | 8. I | 13. K |
| 4. D | 9. M | 14. N |
| 5. G | 10. L | 15. H |

Part II:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. iota | 4. introvert |
| 2. abridged, crevasse | 5. cavalcade |
| 3. amok, askew | 6. extraterrestrial,
apathetically |

COMPREHENSION TEST A ANSWER KEY

Part I: Multiple Choice (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. B | 6. D | 11. C |
| 2. A | 7. C | 12. D |
| 3. A | 8. B | 13. A |
| 4. B | 9. A | 14. B |
| 5. C | 10. D | 15. D |

Part II: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. T | 6. T |
| 2. F | 7. F |
| 3. T | 8. F |
| 4. F | 9. T |
| 5. F | 10. T |

Part III: Fill-In (20 points)

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. lifeguard | 6. virgins |
| 2. water | 7. daughter |
| 3. ring | 8. mug |
| 4. geometry | 9. Christmas |
| 5. tax | 10. wristwatch |

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B ANSWER KEY

Part I: Matching (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. H | 6. B | 11. E |
| 2. N | 7. F | 12. G |
| 3. D | 8. J | 13. I |
| 4. K | 9. A | 14. L |
| 5. O | 10. C | 15. M |

Part II: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. J | 6. A |
| 2. F | 7. I |
| 3. B | 8. G |
| 4. D | 9. H |
| 5. K | 10. L |

Part III: Identification (20 points)

1. "Fourth of July"
2. "Midnight Snack"
3. "Three People and Two Seats"
4. "She"
5. "Welcome"
6. "Priscilla and the Wimps"
7. "May I Have Your Autograph?"
8. "Furlough—1944"
9. "An Ordinary Woman"
10. "Turmoil in a Blue and Beige Bedroom"

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

Answers will vary.



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