



International School of Monterrey

Junior High School
Trimester 1 Final Exam

8th Grade
Literature

Name _____ Date _____ List #: ____ - ____

I. DIRECTIONS: Answer the questions based on the following passages. (17 pts.)

Passage 1: FLEAS

Fleas are perfectly designed by nature to feast on anything containing blood. Like a shark in the water or a wolf in the woods, fleas are ideally equipped to do what they do, making them very difficult to defeat. The bodies of these tiny parasites are extremely hardy and well-suited for their job.

A flea has a very hard exoskeleton, which means the body is covered by a tough, tile-like plate called a sclerite. Because of these plates, fleas are almost impossible to squish. The exoskeletons of fleas are also waterproof and shock resistant, and therefore fleas are highly resistant to the sprays and chemicals used to kill them.

Little spines are attached to this plate. The spines lie flat against the flea's thin, narrow body as the flea scurries through an animal's fur in search of food. However, if anything (like fingers or a self-grooming pet) tries to pull a flea off through the hair coat, these spines will extend and stick to the fur like Velcro.

Fleas are some of the best jumpers in the natural world. A flea can jump seven inches, or 150 times its own length, either vertically or horizontally. An equivalent jump for a person would be 555 feet, the height of the Washington Monument. Fleas can jump 30,000 times in a row without stopping, and they are able to accelerate through the air at an incredibly high rate—a rate which is over ten times what humans can withstand in an airplane.

Fleas have very long rear legs with huge thigh muscles and multiple joints. When they get ready to jump, they fold their long legs up and crouch like a runner on a starting block. Several of their joints contain a protein called resilin, which helps catapult fleas into the air as they jump, similar to the way a rubber band provides momentum to a slingshot. Outward facing claws on the bottom of their legs grip anything they touch when they land.

The adult female flea mates after her first blood meal and begins producing eggs in just 1 to 2 days. One flea can lay up to 50 eggs in one day and over 2,000 in her lifetime. Flea eggs can be seen with the naked eye, but they are about the size of a grain of salt. Shortly after being laid, the eggs begin to transform into cocoons. In the cocoon state, fleas are fully developed adults, and will hatch immediately if conditions are favorable. Fleas can detect warmth, movement, and carbon dioxide in exhaled breath, and these three factors stimulate them to emerge as new adults. If the flea does not detect appropriate conditions, it can remain dormant in the cocoon state for extended periods. Under ideal conditions, the entire life cycle may only take 3 weeks, so in no time at all, pets and homes can become infested.

Because of these characteristics, fleas are intimidating opponents. The best way to control fleas, therefore, is to take steps to prevent an infestation from ever occurring

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- ___ 2. The author's tone in the passage is best described as
 - A. concerned.
 - B. passionate.
 - C. informative.
 - D. opinionated.

3. According to the passage, fleas are resistant to sprays and chemicals because they

- ___ 4. Fleas are difficult to squish because they have
 - I. sclerites.
 - II. tough spines.
 - III. resilin in their joints.
 - A. I only.
 - B. I and II only.
 - C. II and III only.
 - D. I, II, and III.

- ___ 5. According to the passage, which of the following statements is true?
 - A. Fleas extend their little spines if threatened.
 - B. Fleas have the ability to jump higher than humans.
 - C. Humans can jump higher if they consume foods containing resilin.
 - D. The resilin found in fleas is used to make rubber bands.

- ___ 6. According to the passage, fleas are able to jump
- I. with a high rate of acceleration.
 - II. up and down and from side to side.
 - III. because the blood they eat contains resilin.
- A. I only.
 - B. I and II only .
 - C. II and III only.
 - D. I, II, and III.
- ___ 7. Based on information in the passage, the reader can understand that
- A. fleas will die without access to blood.
 - B. fleas survive at a higher rate in outdoor habitats.
 - C. fleas survive at a higher rate in outdoor habitats.
 - D. newly hatched fleas are the size of a grain of salt.
8. The author mentions the Washington Monument in order to
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- ___ 9. It can be inferred that fleas will emerge from eggs as adults
- A. when they outgrow the cocoon.
 - B. after a period of 3 weeks.
 - C. when they sense there is access to blood .
 - D. if there is too much carbon dioxide in the cocoon.
- ___ 10. Using the information in the passage as a guide, it can be concluded that
- A. humans do not possess the physical characteristics of the flea because they have no use for them.
 - B. humans do not pay much attention to fleas because they do not pose a serious threat.
 - C. fleas have many physical advantages, although these are outweighed by their many disadvantages.
 - D. fleas are designed in such a way as to give them unique physical advantages in life.

Passage 2: Icarus and Daedalus

The Greek myth of Icarus and Daedalus is used in literature and art to show *hubris*, or harmful self-confidence. According to the story, King Minos captured a builder named Daedalus and his son Icarus. The king locked them up in a tower on an island. Daedalus thought of a way to escape—he would construct wings! Using bird feathers and candle wax, Daedalus made two sets of wings. When they were ready, Daedalus gave Icarus instructions. He told Icarus not to fly too low because the moisture of the sea would make the wings heavy, and not to fly too high because the heat of the sun would melt the wax holding the wings together. The father and son put on the wings and jumped from the tower into the air. At first, Icarus followed his father's instructions. He made sure not to fly too high or too low. However, Icarus soon became comfortable in his wings and began to do tricks. He darted up into the sky, going higher and higher. The sun burned brightly, and it began to melt the wax on Icarus's wings. The wings fell apart, and Icarus fell into the sea.

- ___ 11. Based on the information in the passage, which of the following is an example of **hubris**?
- A. King Minos locking up Icarus and Daedalus.
 - B. Daedalus constructing wings.
 - C. Icarus doing tricks.
 - D. The sun melting Icarus's wings.
 - E. Icarus falling into the sea.

12. The word **construct** most nearly means

- ___ 13. According to the passage, Daedalus creates wings because
- A. he wants to study bird flight.
 - B. he wants to make money.
 - C. he is good with his hands.
 - D. he has made them before.
 - E. he wants to escape with his son Icarus.

14. Why did Daedalus tell Icarus not to fly too low?

- ___ 15. Why did Icarus disobey his father?
- A. He wanted to impress King Minos.
 - B. He became too comfortable in his wings and took a risk, not really believing he could get hurt.
 - C. He became uncomfortable and wanted to take the wings off.
 - D. He did not believe the wings would work.
 - E. He did not understand his father's instructions.
- ___ 16. For many years, climbers tried to reach the top of mount Everest, but it was not until 1953 that Edmund Hillary finally reached the peak.
What is the error in the sentence?
- A. For many years,
 - B. tried to reach
 - C. mount Everest,
 - D. was not
 - E. No error
- ___ 17. (1) Oprah Winfrey is one of the most successful women in the history of the United States. (2) Her television show has an audience of 14 million. (3) She learned to read at the age of 3. (4) She owns her own production company, which produces her television show, feature films, and made-for-television movies. (5) She has a personal fortune of over half a billion dollars.
Which sentence could be deleted without having an impact on the overall meaning of the paragraph?
- A. Sentence 1.
 - B. Sentence 2.
 - C. Sentence 3.
 - D. Sentence 4.
 - E. Sentence 5.

II. DIRECTIONS: Read each question and choose the best answer. (6 pts.)

- ___ 18. The home that Madame Loisel dreams of shows that she
- A. appreciates simple comforts.
 - B. thinks appearance is very important.
 - C. grew up in a home with fancy furnishings.
 - D. plans to save money to buy her dream home.

- ___ 19. Read the sentence from the story.

She took the garbage down to the street each morning and carried up the water, stopping at each floor to catch her breath.

The setting of this sentence helps to show how much Madame Loisel has

- A. spent.
- B. learned.
- C. changed.
- D. accomplished.

___ 20. Read the sentence from the story.

Her shabby apartment, with its dingy walls, worn furniture, and ugly upholstery was an embarrassment to her.

This sentence about the setting gives a clue that Madame Loisel

- A. believes she should live in a fancy place.
- B. is satisfied with her life with her husband.
- C. feels comfortable with the furniture she has.
- D. is afraid that her husband dislikes their home.

___ 21. According to the story, why is Madame Loisel unable to marry a rich, important man?

- A. She is not educated.
- B. She is not considered pretty.
- C. She does not have wealthy parents.
- D. She does not have charming manners.

___ 22. Which statement is best supported by the events in the story?

- A. Vanity causes suffering.
- B. Friendship lasts forever.
- C. Hard work will be rewarded.
- D. Kind deeds are never wasted.

___ 23. Why does Madame Loisel assume that the necklace is real?

- A. The friend who owns it is wealthy.
- B. Her husband has worked as a jeweler.
- C. She knows where her friend bought it.
- D. It is admired by other guests at the party.

III. DIRECTIONS: Read each question CAREFULLY then write the correct answer in the space provided. (7 pts)

- _____ 24. Those scientists want to hear what our professor thinks about their theory because he is the foremost expert in their field. What does foremost mean?
- A. The first or main one.
 - B. Craziest.
 - C. Least informed.
 - D. Loudest.
- _____ 25. Your cousin claimed to be late because the doors of his house were frozen shut. Even though I have my doubts, his explanation is plausible. It got really cold last night. I'll just have to take his word for it. If a statement is plausible, _____.
- A. you must always believe it
 - B. you should never believe it
 - C. it's hard to understand because it makes no sense
 - D. it's believable enough to possibly be true
- _____ 26. If you don't curtail your spending, you'll be broke in no time at all! Which word is a synonym of "curtail"?
- A. Reduce.
 - B. Follow.
 - C. Behind.
 - D. Buy.
- _____ 27. No word must ever leak out about this military action! It has to be a clandestine operation in order to succeed. Which word is a synonym of "clandestine"?
- A. Family.
 - B. Useful.
 - C. Dangerous.
 - D. Secret .
- _____ 28. Put this medicine on your arm and rub it into your skin until it's invisible. It will inhibit the infection's attempt to spread. What does "inhibit" mean?
- A. Live in a certain place.
 - B. Block or slow down.
 - C. Itch or burn.
 - D. Help to do something important.

- _____ 29. Fortunately, the dizzy spell was transient. He was able to continue playing within seconds and had no trouble winning the match. When you describe an event as "transient," you are saying that _____.
- A. it sounds like a train
 - B. it is quite harmful
 - C. it helps you win
 - D. it doesn't last long
- _____ 30. Brea and Elizabeth are having a dispute over which radio station to play at work. It would be so much simpler if they both liked the same kind of music. A dispute is a _____.
- A. musical instrument
 - B. choice of music
 - C. discovery
 - D. disagreement