International School of Monterrey

Junior High School
Trimester 2 Final Exam

9th Grade
Literature

Name _____ Date _____ LIST #____-____

I. DIRECTIONS: The following questions are about "Past Tense." Read each question and choose the best answer. (4 pts.)

Past Tense

A lot of my friends complain about history. I don't mean history itself; I mean having to study it. I can't think of anything better because the more I study history, the more I understand people today. Even though we humans change a lot on the surface, the deeper part of us, the part that loves and hates, hasn't changed that much in thousands of years. I know, that sounds vague and abstract, so I'll back up a few months and explain why an email is like a curse tablet.

A team of archaeologists work together on an archaeological dig in Israel.

My passion is archeology. As a kid, I was fascinated by Schliemann's discovery of Troy, I couldn't get enough of Mayan pyramids, and I dreamed about living in Machu Picchu as an Inca maiden. So when the opportunity came up to work on a volunteer dig in Israel for the summer, I had to pursue my dream.

Kia and Michael came to see me off. Kia is my best friend. We've known each other since grade school. We've both known Michael almost as long, and somewhere along the way he changed from my friend to my boyfriend. People called us the Three Musketeers because we would do almost everything as a trio. We loved spending time together, the three of us, laughing at the same jokes, enjoying the same movies and music. You couldn't ask for better friends.

The archeology dig was fantastic. The hot, dusty land was utterly foreign, and yet it felt like an ancient home that had been waiting for me. We lived in tents, the dust got into everything, and I could never get entirely clean, but I loved every minute. I partnered up with a guy my age named Bernie. We worked side by side, using toothbrushes to wipe dirt gently from delicate objects. During the first few days, he got a nasty sunburn, so I would remind him to use his sunscreen. After I nearly passed out because of heat exhaustion, he began giving me water all the time. Pretty soon, we felt as though we'd known each other for years, almost like it felt with Michael. The only difference was that Bernie and I could rave on about cuneiform tablets for hours without running out of steam.

Cuneiform tablets illustrate early forms of writing.

We loved knowing that thousands of years ago, a student had written a letter home begging his parents for money by scratching marks onto a clay tablet just as a college kid today would use email or a cell phone to beg for money from home.

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We had both studied Egyptian and Mayan hieroglyphs. We could talk about the transition from pictorial representations to a sound-based alphabet. In other words, we were a matched pair of geeks, so it wasn't exactly a surprise when we began to have feelings for each other. Bernie understood that I had a boyfriend, but I went back to my tent, lay on my cot, and scolded myself for almost betraying Michael. Bernie acted like a friend, and we promised to stay in touch when the dig ended.

It was hard for me to email more than once a week from the dig. I didn't hear from Kia or Michael often, but when I got an acknowledgment, they sounded distant. I thought it was because they missed me.

Kia and Michael were the first ones to welcome me when I got home. I was chattering away like a magpie when I realized how quiet they were. Then, I saw them exchanging glances, and Michael took Kia's hand. In a flash, I knew what was coming.

Michael said, "We didn't want to tell you this in email. It didn't seem right to do it that way instead of face-to-face. We . . . Kia and I . . . we want to be together. But not without you. I mean, we're your friends . . . "

"Get out," I said. I was so furious I could hardly speak. Kia pleaded, "Sabrina, we didn't want to hide anything from you."

"*Get out!*" I screamed and they left with Kia crying. I slammed around the house feeling like the most naive fool in the world, being loyal to Michael while he was leaving me behind here, and with my best friend.

An acient Roman lead tablet with an inscribed curse.

The next few days were horrible. I did my best to **evade** Kia and Michael, which was hard because we tended to hang out at the same places. Bernie and I kept up our enthusiastic conversations by email, but one night he wrote, "*Something seems different. Are you okay?*"

I wrote a vicious email in return, pouring out my rage against Kia and Michael and finished with, "*I wish they'd drop into a black hole*." My finger was poised over the send button when I realized that I was no different from the ancient Romans. They would inscribe curses onto lead tablets asking the gods to curse someone who had wronged them. Okay, so they would toss their tablets into sacred springs while I was sending my curse across an electronic network. The means were different, but the *intent* was the same. I sat back and thought about whether that was the person I wanted to be.

I knew Kia and Michael better than anyone, so I knew they would never intend to hurt me deliberately. People have been struggling with relationships for millennia. What made me any different . . . or any better? In a year, we would be going off in different directions to college anyway, but friendship can span a lot of distance, in both time and space. Their friendship meant more to me than a temporary bit of hurt. I erased my email to Bernie and replaced it with, "*Everything's cool . . . more later*." Then I sent a text message to Kia and Michael: "*Musketeers forever . . . let's do a movie.*"

_____ 1. Which sentence from the story shows that something important in the story will change?

A. It was hard for me to email more than once a week from the dig.

B. I was chattering away like a magpie when I realized how quiet they were.

C. The next few days were horrible.

D. I was so furious I could hardly speak.

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_____ 2. In which sentence do the author's word choices clearly reveal an informal style?

A. I can't think of anything better because the more I study history, the more I understand people today.

B. We worked side by side, using toothbrushes to wipe dirt gently from delicate objects.

C. I slammed around the house feeling like the most naive fool in the world, being loyal to Michael while he was leaving me behind here, and with my best friend.

D. People have been struggling with relationships for millennia.

_____ 3. To evade means to

A. Insist.

B. Avoid.

C. Annoy.

D. Invade.

4. To do something deliberately means to do it…

_____

_____

II. DIRECTIONS: Read each question and choose the best answer.(4 pts.)

_____ 5. Read the sentences.

Lisa was **despondent** about moving to a new city, and her best friend felt miserable about it too. It was the worst thing that could have happened.

Based on clues in the sentences, what does despondent mean?

A. sad

B. angry

C. excited

D. surprised

_____ 6. Read the sentences.

Aunt Jo was an **eccentric** dresser. For example, she mixed and matched colors and styles in a way that most people found odd.

Based on clues in the sentences, what does eccentric mean?

A. fancy

B. casual

C. unusual

D. expensive

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_____ 7. Read the sentences.

> The musician did not brag or boast about her many awards for playing the piano. Instead, she was rather shy and **demure.**

Based on clues in the sentences, what does demure mean?

A.	Sure.		B.	Bored.		C.	Modest.		D.	Delighted.

_____ 8. Read the sentences.

> A dog that barks all the time, begs for food at the table, and jumps on guests can **exasperate** its owner. In other words, the dog can cause the owner to lose all patience.

Based on clues in the sentences, what does exasperate mean?

A.	Train.		B.	Annoy.		C.	Excuse.		D.	Appreciate.

III. DIRECTIONS: Read each question and choose the best answer. (2 pts.)

Tony's Choice

Jake groaned out loud when he realized the new kid was heading over to their table. The way he saw it, new kids at school were like scrawny kittens showing up and meowing on your doorstep. You had to shove them away, show a little authority. Otherwise they'd stick around forever, expecting to be part of your life.

"Someone thinks a group project means new groups," he said.

Tony and Fernando stopped talking about last night's football game and followed Jake's eyes.

"Check out the shirt," said Fernando.

"And those shoes!" snorted Jake. "Where did his mommy buy those? Yesterday's Fashions?"

The new kid was close to their table when he saw them grinning, and a half-smile curved over his own face like a question mark. Just as he reached toward an empty chair, Jake put his feet up on its back rungs, his perfect new shoelaces practically tickling the kid's nose. He kicked the chair over backward, the sound of its fall swallowed up by the noisy room.

"I'm sorry, but as you can clearly see, this table is full," he said, his smile turning hard and cold like a sword blade. "Why don't you just go back to Yesterday's Fashions where you belong?"

Fernando doubled over in laughter as the kid walked away. "Good one, Jake," he snorted. "You saved us from certain doom!"

But Tony didn't say anything. He wasn't even smiling. He stared hard at his pencil, turning it over and over. Then he laid it down on the table, a thin yellow line between himself and the others. He looked up at Jake's broad grin.

"Let me get this straight," he said. "You're prejudiced against this kid because of his shoes?"

"Of course I am," said Jake, still laughing. "I have my pride!"

"Pride," echoed Tony. The word seemed to burrow into him. For the rest of the class, no matter how much Jake and Fernando joked around, Tony was subdued. It started to get on Jake's nerves.

"What's with you?" he asked, trying to provoke a response, but Tony didn't answer.

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Jake felt strangely relieved when the lunch bell rang. Outside the classroom, chaos reigned. Locker doors banged. People drifted in slow, swirling clumps, like icebergs, and sometimes the groups crashed into each other, knocking kids off into the swirling sea of bodies.

Backpacks and books careened around like deadly missiles. But the chaos parted magically in front of the three boys as they headed to the cafeteria. Jake felt the warm glow of contentment. This was more like it. Authority.

They were close to the choice seats in the cafeteria when Fernando caught Jake's arm. "Look, it's Mr. Stylish Shoes."

The kid was sitting alone in a deserted corner, hunched desolately over his lunch like it was the most interesting thing he'd ever seen in his life.

Jake took a step forward. "Let's have a little fun," he said.

Fernando grinned. And Tony? He was setting his jaw so firmly, it looked like it was made of granite. He turned without saying anything and started walking towards the new kid. Jake held Fernando back.

"I guess Tony finally woke up," he said. "Let's just enjoy the show. One accidental lunch-on-lap, coming up!"

He saw Tony weave through the maze of tables and come up behind the kid. Tony's mouth moved, the kid's head jerked up, and Tony reached out his hand.

"Here we go," Jake whispered, tensing with pleasure.

But something was wrong. The kid was reaching his hand out too, and shaking Tony's hand. Tony was pulling up a chair and sitting down, his shoulders friendly and casual. Jake felt his grin turning to ice.

Then it happened. Tony looked up across the sea of faces, found Jake's eyes, and held them for a long minute. Fernando was saying something, but Jake couldn't even hear. He just saw Tony swiveling his chair around to talk with the kid, leaving Jake staring at the broad, solid wall of his back.

_____ 9. Read these sentences from the story.

"Pride," echoed Tony. The word seemed to burrow into him.

What does Tony's short statement show about him?

A. He feels fiercely loyal to Jake and the other boys.

B. He is used to saying and doing whatever Jake does.

C. He thinks that Jake deserves to feel a sense of pride.

D. He believes Jake is showing a quality other than pride.

_____ 10. Read this sentence from "Tony's Choice".

"Check out the shirt," said Fernando.

The language in this sentence tells you that the character speaking these lines

A. is jealous of someone.

B. is worried about someone.

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C. has a reason for mocking someone.

D. has a reason to be angry with someone.

IV. DIRECTIONS: Read each question and choose or write the best answer. (14 pts.)

11. Desolately means _____.

_____ 12. A dilemma is…

A. a quality other people admire in you.

B. punishment for a crime you did not commit.

C. a situation that requires you to make a difficult choice.

D. the chance to do something over again to make it right.

_____ 13. Ethical means…

A.	loyal.		B.	moral..		C.	natural.		D.	personal.

_____ 14. To reinforce means to…

A. replace.

B. question.

C. introduce.

D. strengthen.

"My Brother's Keeper"

_____ 15. An author chooses a certain sentence structure in order to

A. create a style.

B. develop characters.

C. state the main idea.

D. express an opinion.

_____ 16. The author's use of short sentences helps to create a feeling of

A.	fury.		B.	caring.		C.	tension.		D.	jealousy.

"The Hand of Fatima"

_____ 17. What does the viewpoint in a story communicate?

A. the theme

B. the conflicting traits of characters

C. the setting in which characters interact

D. the attitudes of the characters, narrator, and author

_____ 18. Which word best describes the narrator's viewpoint in "The Hand of Fatima"?

A.	Exciting		B.	Humorous		C.	Mysterious		D.	Understanding

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19. How do we know the author likes Aneesi?

_____

_____

_____ 20. The way that Sitt Zeina talks to other characters in the story suggests that the author views her as

A.	bossy.		B.	hateful.		C.	cautious.		D.	easygoing.

_____ 21. The ambiance of a restaurant means its

A. location.

B. price range.

C. style of food.

D. mood or feeling.

_____ 22. Articulate means

A. well-known.

B. well-spoken.

C. well-rounded.

D. well-adjusted.

_____ 23. Intimidating means

A.	exciting.		B.	forgiving.		C.	surprising.		D.	frightening.

_____ 24. To surpass means to

A. give up control.

B. practice over and over.

C. become greater or better.

D. change in significant ways.

V. DIRECTIONS: Read the following passage, then read each question and choose the best answer. (4 pts.)

One of the most popular literary figures in American literature is a woman who spent almost half of her long life in China, a country on a continent thousands of miles from the United States. In her lifetime she earned this country's most highly acclaimed literary award: the Pulitzer Prize, and also the most prestigious form of literary recognition in the world, the Nobel Prize for Literature. Pearl S. Buck was almost a household word throughout much of her lifetime because of her prolific literary output, which consisted of some eighty-five published works, including several dozen novels, six collections of short stories, fourteen books for children, and more than a dozen works of nonfiction.

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When she was eighty years old, some twenty-five volumes were awaiting publication. Many of those books were set in China, the land in which she spent so much of her life. Her books and her life served as a bridge between the cultures of the East and the West. As the product of those two cultures she became as she described herself, "mentally bifocal." Her unique background made her into an unusually interesting and versatile human being. As we examine the life of Pearl Buck, we cannot help but be aware that we are in fact meeting three separate people: a wife and mother, an internationally famous writer and a humanitarian and philanthropist. One cannot really get to know Pearl Buck without learning about each of the three. Though honored in her lifetime with the William Dean Howell Medal of the American Academy of Arts and Letters in addition to the Nobel and Pulitzer prizes. Pearl Buck as a total human being, not only a famous author, is a captivating subject of study.

25. What is the author's main purpose in the passage?

_____

_____

_____ 26. According to the passage, Pearl Buck is known as a writer of all of the following EXCEPT.

A.	Novels		B.	Children's books		C.	Poetry		D.	Short stories

_____ 27. Which of the following is NOT mentioned by the author as an award received by Pearl Buck?

A. The Nobel Prize
B. The Newbery Medal
C. The William Dean Howell medal
D. The Pulitzer prize

_____ 28. According to the passage, Pearl Buck was an unusual figure in American literature in that she

A. wrote extensively about a very different culture.
B. published half of her books abroad.
C. won more awards than any other woman of her time.
D. achieved her first success very late in life.

29. According to the passage, Pearl Buck described herself as "mentally bifocal" to suggest that she was

_____

_____

_____ 30. The author's attitude toward Pearl Buck could best be described as

A.	indifferent.		B.	admiring.		C.	sympathetic.		D.	tolerant.

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