International School of Monterrey

Junior High School — **7th Grade**

Trimester 3 Final Exam — **Literature**

Name _____ Date _____ List #:____-_____

I. DIRECTIONS: ***Read the passage. Then answer the questions below. (9 pts.)***

FLOSSING

It is bad to have food stuck between your teeth for long periods of time. This is because food attracts germs, germs produce acid, and acid hurts your teeth and gums. Flossing helps to remove the food that gets stuck between your teeth. This explains why flossing helps to keep your mouth healthy, but some doctors say that flossing can be also good for your heart.

It may seem strange that something you do for your teeth can have any effect on your heart. Doctors have come up with a few ideas about how flossing works to keep your heart healthy. One idea is that the germs that hurt your teeth can leave the mouth and travel into your blood. Germs that get into the blood can then attack your heart. Another idea is based on the fact that when there are too many germs in your mouth, the body tries to fight against these germs. For some reason, the way the body fights these mouth germs may **end up weakening the heart** over time.

Not every doctor agrees about these ideas. Some doctors think that the link between good flossing habits and good heart health is only a **coincidence**. A coincidence is the occurrence of two or more events at one time apparently by mere chance. The incidence of these events is completely random, as they do not admit of any reliable cause and effect relationship between them. For example, every time I wash my car, it rains. This does not mean that when I wash my car, I somehow change the weather. This is only a coincidence. Likewise, some doctors think that people who have bad flossing habits just happen to also have heart problems, and people who have good flossing habits just happen to have healthy hearts.

The **theory** that flossing your teeth helps to keep your heart healthy might not be true. But every doctor agrees that flossing is a great way to keep your teeth healthy. So even if flossing does not help your heart, it is sure to help your teeth. This is enough of a reason for everyone to floss their teeth every day.

____**1)** Which of the following would be the best title for this passage?

A. Why Doctors Disagree about Flossing.
B. How to Keep Your Teeth Healthy.
C. Flossing Your Way to a Healthy Heart.
D. Flossing by Coincidence.

____**2)** Flossing effectively helps to keep your mouth healthy by preventing

A. germs from producing acid.
B. food from entering your body.
C. germs from entering into your blood.
D. acid from contacting your teeth and gums.

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____3) In paragraph 2, the author introduces ideas about how flossing works to keep your heart healthy. Exactly how many of these ideas does the author put forth in this paragraph?

A. 1
B. 2
C. 3
D. 4

____4) Based on information in paragraph 2, it can be understood that germs in the mouth may harm your heart by

I. getting into the blood that flows to the heart.
II. forcing the body to fight against too many of them.
III. causing food to get stuck in the arteries.

A. I only.
B. I and II only.
C. II and III only.
D. I, II, and III.

____5) In paragraph 2, the author explains how having too many germs in your mouth can "end up weakening the heart." Using the passage as a guide, it can be understood that with respect to the actual way in which this occurs, doctors are

A. reluctant to hypothesize.
B. confident in their estimations.
C. extremely knowledgeable.
D. uncertain but speculative.

____6) In paragraph 3 the author writes, "Not every doctor agrees about these ideas." The author's purpose in writing this sentence is to

A. provide an example.
B. introduce a new topic.
C. change a previous statement.
D. clarify an earlier assertion.

____7) Using information in paragraph 3 as a guide, which of the following is the best example of a **coincidence**?

A. Jim wakes up with a sore throat. He eats a piece of bacon for breakfast. By noon, he feels much better. Jim decides that the bacon has cured his sore throat.
B. Laura remembers to brush her teeth every day, but she only remembers to floss once a week. She writes a note to herself, reminding herself to floss and sticks it to her bathroom mirror.

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C. Mario is not very good at baseball. He practices playing every day. After a several months of practice, he is a much better baseball player.
D. Jai has a bad heart. Her doctor tells her to eat more vegetables and less junk food. After nearly a year of doing this, the doctor tells Jai that her heart is doing much better.

____8) Based on its use in the final paragraph, it can be inferred that **theory** belongs to which of the following word groups?

A. query, question, interrogation
B. assertion, declaration, affirmation
C. hypothesis, supposition, belief
D. idea, thought, notion

____9) Which of the following best states the main idea of the final paragraph?

A. Because doctors do not agree that flossing will help your heart, it is useless to floss.
B. It is a fact that flossing can help your heart as well as your teeth.
C. Even if flossing is only good for your teeth, you should still do it every day.
D. There is no good reason to believe that flossing will help your heart, but it is still a good idea to do it every day.

II. DIRECTIONS: ***Read the passage. Then answer the questions below. (10 pts.)***

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.

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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.

____**10)** The primary purpose of the passage is to

A. educate the reader about the physical characteristics of fleas.
B. compare fleas to other members of the animal kingdom.
C. relate the problems that can result from a flea infestation.
D. explain why a flea infestation is hard to get rid of.

____**11)** The author's tone in the passage is best described as

A. concerned.
B. passionate.
C. informative.
D. opinionated.

____**12)** According to the passage, fleas are resistant to sprays and chemicals because they

A. have waterproof sclerites.
B. are excellent jumpers .
C. reproduce very rapidly.
D. can stick to fur like Velcro.

____**13)** 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.

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___14) 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.

___15) 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.

___16) 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 will die after they produce 2,000 eggs.
D. newly hatched fleas are the size of a grain of salt.

___17) The author mentions the Washington Monument in order to

A. estimate the extreme distance that a flea is able to jump.
B. illustrate a comparison made between fleas and humans.
C. clarify a point made regarding fleas and acceleration.
D. demonstrate the superiority of fleas over humans.

___18) 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.

___19) 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.

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III. DIRECTIONS: Answer the following questions about "Abuela Invents the Zero".

____**20)** Picture what Connie and her grandmother looked like as they went to church. Read the sentence from the short story.
I have to help her climb the steps, and she stops to take a deep breath after each one, then I lead her down the aisle so that everybody can see me with my bizarre grandmother.

Which word is most similar in meaning to the word bizarre as used in this sentence from "Abuela Invents the Zero?"
A. normal
B. reasonable
C. peculiar
D. usual

____**21)** Read the sentences from the short story.
I would like for her to disappear. I just know that on Monday my friends, and my enemies, in the barrio will have a lot of senile-grandmother jokes to tell in front of me. I am frozen to my seat. So the same woman who wants me dead on the spot does it for me. She makes a big deal out of getting up and hurrying to get Abuela.

What does the sentence "I am frozen to my seat." mean in this excerpt?
A. It is January in New Jersey and there is two feet of snow on the ground, and it is very cold in the unheated church.
B. Connie is unable to move because she is afraid that someone will know that the old lady in the black coat is with her.
C. Connie is ashamed that her grandmother didn't bring warm enough clothes with her when she flew up from Puerto Rico.
D. Their spot in the church pew is inconvenient because it is at the end of a crowded pew, and Connie feels trapped in her seat.

IV. DIRECTIONS: Each question will ask you to make a logical inference based on textual details. Explain your answer by referencing the text. (6 pts.)

Every day after work Paul took his muddy boots off on the steps of the front porch. Alice would have a fit if the boots made it so far as the welcome mat. He then took off his dusty overalls and threw them into a plastic garbage bag; Alice left a new garbage bag tied to the porch railing for him every morning. On his way in the house, he dropped the garbage bag off at the washing machine and went straight up the stairs to the shower as he was instructed. He would eat dinner with her after he was "presentable," as Alice had often said.

22. What type of job does Paul do?

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23. How do you know this?

24. Describe Alice.

25. What in the text supports your description?

26. What relationship do Paul and Alice have?

27. Why do you feel this way?

V. DIRECTIONS. Use the words to complete the sentences.

established	**mature**	**qualified**	**generation**
participate	**vote**	**judgment**	**politics**

28. _____ From 1900 to 1920, an entire ___ of women fought for the right

29. _____ to ___. Many of the women worked, paid taxes, and even owned property.

30. _____ They certainly were old enough, or ___ enough, to vote.

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