E Unseen Test

Name: _____ Date: _____

DO COLORS MATTER?

Nowadays, you can usually tell whether a young child is male or female based on the clothes they wear. Not only the style, but also the colors are recognized as boy or girl colors. Historically, however, this was not always the case. In the early 1800's, most infants were dressed in white and gender differences weren't taken into consideration until the children had learned to walk. Both boys and girls wore dresses or short skirts until the age of five or six. The differences in clothing were minor; boys' dresses had buttons in the front whereas girls' dresses had buttons in the back.

1. How did people in the 1800's distinguish between boys' and girls' clothing? _____

2. How can you tell if a baby is a boy or a girl today?_____

3. Find words in the paragraph that match these meanings:

In the past: _____

Boy: _____ Girl_____ Sex type: _____

Not important: _____ While _____

Sociologists tried to answer the question why there was no difference between the clothes that boys wore and those worn by girls. One reason was that at that time, distinguishing boys from girls was less important than distinguishing children from adults. Childhood was considered a time of innocence; thus, it was acceptable for both genders to be dressed in "angelic" white. Another more practical reason was that it was easier to bleach white cotton clothes, so dressing children in white clothes was an advantage.

4. Which problem did white clothes solve? _____

a. In the past, children were less clean than today.

b. In the past, it was harder to clean colored clothes.

c. In the past, children preferred to wear white clothes.

It was only in the middle of the 19th century that pastel-colored clothes for babies appeared. Although these included pink and blue, they did not signify the gender of the child. It was only toward World War I that pink, which was considered a bold color, was seen as masculine, while blue was seen as feminine.

5. In the time around World War I, girls were dressed in _____and boys were dressed in _____.

The real change of colors that signify gender began in the 1940's. It was then that blue started to be considered masculine and pink feminine. In the 1960's the picture changed once again when unisex clothes became fashionable due to the women's liberation movement. Dressing girls in gender-neutral colors, like green or yellow, were believed by some parents to be a way to free their daughters from gender-based expectations to help them realize their full potential as adults.

6. The women's lib movement believed that girls should wear _____.

Today there are parents who still believe that girls should wear pink while boys should wear blue. These parents shop for a complete package deal buying not only pink or blue clothes but also pink or blue beds, sheets, blankets and even pacifiers. Others, on the other hand, believe that we should not be influenced by such traditions and let children wear any color. It remains to be seen which of the above trends will be more dominant when the children of today become parents themselves.

7. What **two** things do we learn from this paragraph? ____ _____

a. Parents expect to get a discount when they buy a baby package deal.

b. Not all parents choose to dress their babies in gender signifying clothes.

c. Future parents will be more influenced by fads.

d. It is uncertain how today's children will dress their own children in the future.

e. Children today have stronger opinions about what to wear.

8. Describe two different perspectives on the color of kid's clothes:

_____ _____