📘 Summative Assessment: *"A Summer's Reading"* (Bernard Malamud)

I. Multiple-Choice (choose one best answer)

1.

"…he had quit school 'on an impulse' when he was sixteen."
Why did George leave school?
a) He was failing academically
b) He wanted to work
c) He made a sudden decision to drop out
d) His family asked him to

2.

"Unable to hold a decent job, he anticipates reaching his twentieth birthday without finding gainful employment."
What does "gainful employment" mean here?
a) A paying job that gives purpose
b) A full scholarship
c) Volunteer work
d) A part-time job in the park

3.

"He lies, saying that he is spending the summer diligently reading a list of one hundred books..."
Why does George lie?
a) He wants to impress Mr. Cattanzara
b) He really is reading them
c) He wants to join a book club
d) He dislikes books

4.

"They begin to treat him with more respect."
What is the effect of the rumor that he reads 100 books?
a) People ignore him
b) He is treated with more respect
c) He is teased
d) He has to move away

5.

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"Don't do what I did," Mr. Cattanzara warns him.
What does this warning suggest?
a) Mr. Cattanzara regrets not reading enough
b) Mr. Cattanzara is jealous
c) George should stay in school
d) Reading is a waste of time

II. Short Answer (1–3 sentences each)

1. **Describe George's feelings** at the beginning of the story.
2. **Who is Mr. Cattanzara**, and why is he important to George?
3. **What misunderstanding** ultimately motivates George to begin reading?
4. **Give two ways** George's behavior or attitude changes after people believe the rumor.

III. Extended Response (Approx. 100-150 words)

Prompt:
In *"A Summer's Reading"*, George fabricates the reading of 100 books to earn respect. Explore the ways in which respect and identity influence his choices. In your answer:

- Explain how George's self-image is shaped by the neighborhood's perception of him.
- Discuss why Mr. Cattanzara's reaction is pivotal for George's transformation.
- Reflect on whether you've ever changed your actions or behavior to match someone else's expectations. How does George's story relate to your own experience?

Use evidence from the text—such as George's thoughts, actions, and the reactions of others—to support your analysis.

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