

## OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/ENGLISH IB/TOPS/MACS/HOMEWORK 15

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_ CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the following selections and answer the questions that follows.

## SELECTION 1/4

I read carefully through the descriptions, looking for anything that sounded familiar, let alone plausible. It seemed that most vampire myths centered around beautiful women as demons and children as victims; they also seemed like constructs created to explain away the high mortality rates for young children, and to give men an excuse for infidelity. Many of the stories involved bodiless spirits and warnings against improper burials. There wasn't much that sounded like the movies I'd seen, and only a very few, like the Hebrew *Estrie* and the Polish *Upier*, who were even preoccupied with drinking blood.

Only three entries really caught my attention: the Romanian *Vara-colaci*, a powerful undead being who could appear as a beautiful, pale-skinned human, the Slovak *Nelapsi*, a creature so strong and fast it could massacre an entire village in the single hour after midnight, and one other, the *Stregoni benefici*.

About this last there was only one brief sentence.

*Stregoni benefici: An Italian vampire, said to be on the side of goodness, and a mortal enemy of all evil vampires.*

It was a relief, that one small entry, the one myth among hundreds that claimed the existence of good vampires.

Overall, though, there was little that coincided with Jacob's stories or my own observations. I'd made a little catalogue in my mind as I'd read and carefully compared it with each myth. Speed, strength, beauty, pale skin, eyes that shift color; and then Jacob's criteria: blood drinkers, enemies of the werewolf, cold-skinned, and immortal. There were very few myths that matched even one factor.

And then another problem, one that I'd remembered from the small number of scary movies that I'd seen and was backed up by today's reading — vampires couldn't come out in the daytime, the sun

1. For each of the words below, give one word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning that the word or phrase has in the passage.

i. Plausible	
ii. Preoccupied with	
iii. Coincided	
iv. Catalogue	

2. What resource is the narrator using to learn more about vampires?

- a. The contemporary novel *Twilight*
- b. The Victorian novel *Dracula*
- c. The World Wide Web
- d. A biology textbook
- e. None of the above

## SELECTION 2/4

would burn them to a cinder. They slept in coffins all day and came out only at night.

Aggravated, I snapped off the computer's main power switch, not waiting to shut things down properly. Through my irritation, I felt overwhelming embarrassment. It was all so stupid. I was sitting in my room, researching vampires. What was wrong with me? I decided that most of the blame belonged on the doorstep of the town of Forks — and the entire sodden Olympic Peninsula, for that matter.

I had to get out of the house, but there was nowhere I wanted to go that didn't involve a three-day drive. I pulled on my boots anyway, unclear where I was headed, and went downstairs. I shrugged into my raincoat without checking the weather and stomped out the door.

It was overcast, but not raining yet. I ignored my truck and started east on foot, angling across Charlie's yard toward the ever-encroaching forest. It didn't take long till I was deep enough for the house and the road to be invisible, for the only sound to be the squish of the damp earth under my feet and the sudden cries of the jays.

There was a thin ribbon of a trail that led through the forest here, or I wouldn't risk wandering on my own like this. My sense of direction was hopeless; I could get lost in much less helpful surroundings. The trail wound deeper and deeper into the forest, mostly east as far as I could tell. It snaked around the Sitka spruces and the hemlocks, the yews and the maples. I only vaguely knew the names of the trees around me, and all I knew was due to Charlie pointing them out to me from the cruiser window in earlier days. There were many I didn't know, and others I couldn't be sure about because they were so covered in green parasites.

I followed the trail as long as my anger at myself pushed me forward. As that started to ebb, I slowed. A few drops of moisture trickled down from the canopy above me, but I couldn't be certain if it was beginning to rain or if it was simply pools left over from yesterday, held high in the leaves above me, slowly dripping their way back

3. For each of the words below, give one word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning that the word or phrase has in the passage.

i. Aggravated	
ii. Sodden	
iii. Encroaching	
iv. Parasites	
v. Ebb	

4. Why does the narrator feel “overwhelming embarrassment”?
- She is embarrassed by how little her brief research overlaps with Jacob’s stories and her own observations.
  - She is embarrassed by the fact that she has fallen in love with a Polish *Uwier*.
  - She is embarrassed by the absurdity of what she is doing – researching vampires in her room.
  - She is embarrassed by how provincial the people of Forks are.
  - None of the above.
5. Who does the narrator finally blame for causing her to become obsessed with vampires?
- The town of Forks.
  - Her family.
  - An Italian vampire.
  - Jacob.
  - All of the above.
6. Before slowing down, how does the narrator feel when she walks down the “thin ribbon of a trail”? Choose the best answer.
- Hopeless
  - Angry
  - Depressed
  - Adventurous
  - None of the above

### SELECTION 3/4

to the earth. A recently fallen tree — I knew it was recent because it wasn’t entirely carpeted in moss — rested against the trunk of one of her sisters, creating a sheltered little bench just a few safe feet off the trail. I stepped over the ferns and sat carefully, making sure my jacket was between the damp seat and my clothes wherever they touched, and leaned my hooded head back against the living tree.

This was the wrong place to have come. I should have known, but where else was there to go? The forest was deep green and far too much like the scene in last night’s dream to allow for peace of mind. Now that there was no longer the sound of my soggy footsteps, the silence was piercing. The birds were quiet, too, the drops increasing in frequency, so it must be raining above. The ferns stood higher than my head, now that I was seated, and I knew someone could walk by on the path, three feet away, and not see me.

Here in the trees it was much easier to believe the absurdities that embarrassed me indoors. Nothing had changed in this forest for thousands of years, and all the myths and legends of a hundred different lands seemed much more likely in this green haze than they had in my clear-cut bedroom.

I forced myself to focus on the two most vital questions I had to answer, but I did so unwillingly.

First, I had to decide if it was possible that what Jacob had said about the Cullens could be true.

Immediately my mind responded with a resounding negative. It was silly and morbid to entertain such ridiculous notions. But what, then? I asked myself. There was no rational explanation for how I was alive at this moment. I listed again in my head the things I'd observed myself: the impossible speed and strength, the eye color shifting from black to gold and back again, the inhuman beauty, the pale, frigid skin. And more — small things that registered slowly — how they never seemed to eat, the disturbing grace with which they moved. And the way *he* sometimes spoke, with unfamiliar cadences and phrases that better fit the style of a turn-of-the-century novel

7. For each of the words below, give one word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning that the word or phrase has in the passage.

i. Absurdities	
ii. Vital	
iii. Resounding	
iv. Morbid	
v. Rational	
vi. Frigid	
vii. Registered	
viii. Cadences	

8. Why does the narrator not immediately realize that it is raining?
  - a. There is canopy above her that is providing some shelter from the rain.
  - b. She is so engrossed in her own thoughts that she does not realize that it is raining.
  - c. The drops are increasing in frequency.
  - d. There is no longer the sound of her soggy footsteps.
  - e. None of the above.
  
9. What is obviously one of the “absurdities” that embarrasses the narrator indoors?
  - a. The idea that Jacob is a werewolf.
  - b. The idea that Edward is in love with her.
  - c. The idea that Jacob is in love with her.
  - d. The idea that vampires could exist in reality.
  - e. The idea that Jacob is a grizzly bear.
  
10. How does the narrator feel about what Jacob said about the Cullens being vampires?
  - a. The narrator is ambivalent. On the one hand, she tries really hard to convince herself that Jacob is wrong; on the other hand, there is a Cullen who possesses characteristics of a vampire
  - b. She is seduced by the unfamiliar and exotic cadences of a Cullen's speech.
  - c. The narrator feels even more curious about the Cullens, and her own desire to be a vampire is awakened.
  - d. She feels confused and depressed about her lack of answers.
  - e. None of the above.

#### SELECTION 4/4

than that of a twenty-first-century classroom. He had skipped class the day we'd done blood typing. He hadn't said no to the beach trip till he heard where we were going. He seemed to know what everyone around him was thinking . . . except me. He had told me he was the villain, dangerous. . . .

Could the Cullens be vampires?

Well, they were *something*. Something outside the possibility of rational justification was taking place in front of my incredulous eyes. Whether it be Jacob's *cold ones* or my own superhero theory, Edward Cullen was not . . . human. He was something more.

So then — maybe. That would have to be my answer for now.

And then the most important question of all. What was I going to do if it was true?

*If* Edward was a vampire — I could hardly make myself think the words — then what should I do? Involving someone else was definitely out. I couldn't even believe myself; anyone I told would have me committed.

Only two options seemed practical. The first was to take his advice: to be smart, to avoid him as much as possible. To cancel our plans, to go back to ignoring him as far as I was able. To pretend there was an impenetrably thick glass wall between us in the one class where we were forced together. To tell him to leave me alone — and mean it this time.

I was gripped in a sudden agony of despair as I considered that alternative. My mind rejected the pain, quickly skipping on to the next option.

I could do nothing different. After all, if he was something . . . sinister, he'd done nothing to hurt me so far. In fact, I would be a dent in Tyler's fender if he hadn't acted so quickly. So quickly, I argued with myself, that it might have been sheer reflexes. But if it was a reflex to save lives, how bad could he be? I retorted. My head spun around in answerless circles.

There was one thing I was sure of, if I was sure of anything. The

11. For each of the words below, give one word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning that the word or phrase has in the passage.

i. Incredulous	
ii. Sinister	
iii. Fender	
iv. Sheer	
v. Reflex	

**WRITING INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPHS**

**Write a good introduction that responds to one of the following two questions/topics. Do not exceed the space provided. Write only the introductory paragraph!**

**EITHER** 1. If the world suddenly stopped spinning, what would you actually see and hear during your last seconds, or minutes?

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**OR** 2. Imagine this situation: Tom was sure his leg was broken and there was no way he could climb out of the well. It was also miles from anywhere. Why had he been so stupid to climb down alone? With a deep breath and a quick prayer, he flicked open his mobile phone. Describe what happens next.

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**THE END**