

OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/GRADE 7 AND 8 WRITING/HOMEWORK 5

NAME (FIRST AND LAST): _____ GRADE: _____

READING COMPREHENSION AND REFLECTION

Read the following selections and discuss an element of horror in each of them. In other words, explain how they evoke dread, repulsion, or fear in the reader. Try not to say something like, "It is suspenseful." Carefully explain the source of horror. Each response should have at least five well-developed sentences.

Selection 1

My Daughter Learned to Count

My daughter woke me around 11:50 last night. My wife and I had picked her up from her friend Sally's birthday party, brought her home, and put her to bed. My wife went into the bedroom to read while I fell asleep watching the Braves game.

"Daddy," she whispered, tugging my shirt sleeve. "Guess how old I'm going to be next month."

"I don't know, beauty," I said as I slipped on my glasses. "How old?"

She smiled and held up four fingers.

It is 7:30 now. My wife and I have been up with her for almost 8 hours. She still refuses to tell us where she got them.

Your response: _____

Selection 2

He Stood Against My Window

I don't know why I looked up, but when I did I saw him there. He stood against my window. His forehead rested against the glass, and his eyes were still and light and he smiled a lipstick-red, cartoonish grin. And he just stood there in the window. My wife was upstairs sleeping, my son was in his crib and I couldn't move I froze and watched him looking past me through the glass.

Oh, please no. His smile never moved but he put a hand up and slid it down the glass, watching me. With matted hair and yellow skin and face through the window.

I couldn't do anything. I just stayed there, frozen, feet still in the bushes I was pruning, looking into my home. He stood against my window.

Your response: _____

Selection 3

Don't be scared of the monsters, just look for them. Look to your left, to your right, under your bed, behind your dresser, in your closet but never look up, she hates being seen.

Your response: _____

WRITING SKILLS

Organize this short story into paragraphs by inserting the sign for paragraph at the right spots: ¶. There are nine paragraph breaks. This story is effective at 266 words. It has elements of conflict and mood, setting and character.



Late one night, a 15-year old girl named Lydia was walking home from her friend's house when she turned down a narrow street to take a short cut and was startled by the sight of an old man standing in her path. When she stopped, the old man turned to her and in a hoarse voice said, "Tell me the way!" His face was disgusting, his skin was covered in scars and boils, his hair stringy and unkempt, his eyes bulging horribly, almost popping out of their sockets. Lydia froze in panic. She was alone in a dark and narrow alleyway with a strange and disturbing person. Her heart began pounding and it took her a few seconds to catch her breath. "Tell me the way!" the old man croaked once more. "Ok. W-Where are you going?" asked Lydia. When the old man told her the address he was searching for, a chill ran down her spine. It was her house. "I don't know where that is," she snapped and rushed past the old man and down the alleyway. Glancing back, she could see him standing in the alley, watching her flee. Lydia was so freaked out by the incident that she didn't stop running until she got back to her house. Breathing a sigh of relief, she took out her keys. She looked up and down the street to make sure the old man hadn't followed her. It was empty. She turned the key, unlocked the door, and pushed it open. From the darkness inside her house, a hoarse voice muttered, "Tell me the way!"

Review of grammar, punctuation and writing mechanics.

Directions: Underline the entire ***independent*** clause in each sentence.

1. Although we know the benefits of exercise, most of us don't know that a brisk after-dinner leisurely walk can help with digestion.
2. People need to be able to share their fears, frustrations, and joys, so it's important for us to develop a group of people we can share our feelings with.
3. Whereas learning about nutrition is not difficult, having the discipline to make wise food choices is often a problem.
4. Even though you can't always control your time, it will help you to set priorities and make a daily To Do list.
5. Change your negative inner conversation whenever you realize you are being too hard on yourself.
6. So that you feel less stress and enjoy life more, develop your sense of humour.
7. Sit down with a piece of paper and create a plan for solving the problem when you find yourself worrying over one.
8. While there are many relaxation techniques, sitting quietly with your eyes closed and taking a few deep breaths will quickly calm you.
9. Develop a positive attitude, because it enables you to enjoy life more.

Of course, there's no single set of correct answers to this exercise. Rely on your imagination to create original sentences.

1. We were having a good time at the party.
(*You were having a good time until what happened?*)

2. whenever you begin to feel sorry for yourself
(*What should we do whenever this happens?*)

3. It is unwise to strike a match.
(When is it unwise to strike a match?)

4. because our TV set has been broken for the past week
(How has your family coped with this misfortune?)

5. although tarantulas pose no threat to human beings
(How do many people respond to these large hairy spiders?)

6. Classes were canceled today.
(Why were classes canceled?)

7. The baby cried loudly.
(What was going on while the baby cried?)

8. if the power goes out while you're alone in the house
(What should we do when the electricity goes out?)

9. I threw out the chicken.
(Why did you throw out the chicken?)

Write the correct tense of the verb in parentheses to create tense consistency. In some cases you may need to add an auxiliary verb (have, be, do - in the right tense).

1. As soon as she saw the smoke, Laura _____ (run) into the house to save her dog.
2. Jenn _____ (throw) out the food that had been sitting in the refrigerator for weeks.
3. When you get here, the valet _____ (show) you to your room.
4. Will returned the book and _____ (get) a receipt from the clerk.
5. By the time we arrived on the scene, the cars _____ (tow) away.
6. Real estate prices have increased dramatically over the past year; I should _____ (buy) that property months ago.
7. The horse _____ (race) across the finish line as we are speaking.
8. Bill saw the movie a week after he _____ (read) the book.
9. Lulu _____ (take) ballet for three years now.
10. By the time you finish this project, we _____ (grow) very old.

Subject-verb agreement

1. Annie and her brothers (is, are) at school.
2. Either my mother or my father (is, are) coming to the meeting.
3. The dog or the cats (is, are) outside.
4. Either my shoes or your coat (is, are) always on the floor.
5. George and Tamara (doesn't, don't) want to see that movie.
6. Benito (doesn't, don't) know the answer.
7. One of my sisters (is, are) going on a trip to France.

8. The man with all the birds (live, lives) on my street.
9. The movie, including all the previews, (take, takes) about two hours to watch.
10. The players, as well as the captain, (want, wants) to win.
11. Either answer (is, are) acceptable.
12. Every one of those books (is, are) fiction.
13. Eight dollars (is, are) the price of a movie these days.
14. (Is, Are) the news on at five or six?
15. Mathematics (is, are) John's favorite subject, while Civics (is, are) Andrea's favorite subject.

Your bio:

This should be around fifty words, 3-4 sentences. Things to include: Hobbies, interests, favourite books, any awards you have won, age or anything else you think anyone might be interested in etc. Also try writing a tagline about yourself in one sentence. Here is an example:

The Tag Line: Jane Smith is a practicing physician in Rumford, Maine.

A Tag Line is much like a headline but introduces you, what you do, and where you live all in one sentence.

The Extensive Bio: Jane Smith, a practicing physician, has been a Civil War buff for decades. She has published articles in *Civil War Journal*, *Civil War News*, and *Civil War Weekly* and is a member of the Civil War Society. She lives in Rumford, Maine, with her husband, three kids and adorable cat, Samuel. This is her first novel.

*An extensive bio expands on all of the information in a tag line, going more into detail about you and your life and **how it affects your writing**. It also shows whoever is reading your biography how you might know something about what you are writing. (Bios are written in third person)*

THE END