

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA

BLIZZARD BAG 2 – Miss Aggas, Mrs. Lonsberry and Mrs. Meek

### Learning Targets:

- \*I can analyze the development of a character(s).
- \*I can analyze the setting and how it effects the plot.
- \*I can analyze the development of the story's plot including the exposition, rising action, conflict, falling action, and resolution.
- \*I can analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text.
- \*I can determine the meaning of words and phrases of figurative language, and connotation and denotation.
- \*I can analyze the narrator's point of view.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title: **Blizzard Bag 2 - ELA / Aggas, Lonsberry, Meek**

1. Hypnotized by the twirling necklace held in her mother's hand, Becks was transported to another era. She imagined that she could see herself in the 1920s, the period in which the necklace was made. As the necklace danced in front of her, Becks could see what that time would have been like. The women were dressed in fringed dresses and their hair was swept up on one side. The men were wearing pinstriped suits with their hair slicked back. They were all dancing and laughing in a cramped dance room. This is all Becks saw as she gazed intently at the spinning necklace.

From which point of view is this passage written?

- A. second person
- B. The point of view shifts from third person to second person.
- C. first person
- D. third person

2. The handle of the bike felt especially loose in my hand. Knowing this made me feel very uncomfortable because I didn't want anything to go wrong my first time riding a bike. I knew that all my other friends learned how to ride a bike years ago, but I was a special case. I was always afraid of all and any pain that came with bicycling. The mere thought of falling off a bike made me shudder. I warily got myself on the bike and made the necessary adjustments. Then with a deep breath, I pushed forward on my bike.

Why does the author choose this point of view with which to write the passage?

- A. to describe how bicycle riding can be a very dangerous activity
- B. to prove that people of any age can learn how to ride a bicycle
- C. to show how the narrator feels about riding a bike for the first time
- D. to know why the friends of the narrator knew how to ride a bike

3. Leela took her seat in the church pew in anticipation of her cousin Alice's wedding. Alice was Leela's favorite cousin. Leela recognized the beginning notes of Pachelbel's

*Canon in D* floating off the strings of the quartet. The wedding party began slowly coming down the aisle. *The wedding is starting. I bet Alice will look amazing in her wedding dress!* Leela thought to herself.

After the wedding party had taken their positions at the front of the sanctuary, the "Wedding March" began playing and the double doors at the back of the room opened in unison, and the guests stood up. Alice, her arm linked with her father's arm, took a deep breath. The day had finally come. She was marrying Bobby, the love of her life. Alice noticed that he looked nervous standing at the end of the aisle, but at the same time, his joy was evident by the huge smile and the glint in his eye when he saw his bride in her wedding dress. Alice began her march down the aisle to open a new chapter of her life.

From which point of view is this passage written?

- A. The point of view switches from third person to first person.
- B. first person
- C. third-person omniscient
- D. The point of view shifts from first person to third person.

---

My best friend Pablo came back to town this weekend. He moved away over a year ago, and I had not seen him since. We keep in touch by email, but I really needed to **hang** with him. It's hard having a best friend who lives 300 miles away. I picked him up at the airport on Friday. He got in late, so we just went back to my place and **chilled**, talking and playing video games. He's just like he was when he left. You'd have thought we saw each other every day. I was **down in the dumps** when I had to take him back to the airport on Sunday, but at least we got to spend a little time together.

4. What does the word **hang** connote as it is used in the story?

- A. to make fun of
- B. to put in a closet
- C. to spend time
- D. to dangle down

---

5. As it is used in the story, what does the word **chilled** mean?

- A. put on ice
  - B. relaxed
  - C. froze
  - D. caught a cold
-

6. Although it is not clearly defined, what is the connotation of the phrase **down in the dumps** as it is used in this story?

- A. sad
- B. excited
- C. tired
- D. angry

---

### Key to the Unknown

Kevin and Harry had been best friends for as long as either of them could remember. They had lived on the same block since first grade. Although their families were not particularly close, each mother considered the other boy her son. During the summer after the sixth grade, the two boys made a fort about a half-mile into some woods at the edge of town. There was a good trail, one they could ride their bikes on.

Near the fort there was a dilapidated, old house, a barn, and chicken coop with its roof caved in. In fact, there were big holes in all the buildings. Although the buildings weren't totally safe, they were too inviting for two young boys.

One day, they were exploring inside the old farmhouse. It was sunny outside, but in certain parts of the house, it was always dark. That's where they were when Harry stepped on a rotten board and the whole floor gave way beneath him. He screamed as he fell about three feet to the ground. A huge cloud of dust rose from the collapsed floor and covered Harry.

Luckily, Kevin was still outside the door of that room, and that floor didn't collapse. But he was scared that Harry might be injured. "Are you okay? What happened? Where are you?" he yelled into the dust.

"I'm right here," Harry coughed. "I'm not hurt or anything." He fanned his arms around to get rid of the dust. Kevin kneeled down and took a look. He reached out his hand to pull Harry up, but instead Harry hunkered down and peered into the dark crawl space below the floor. "Do we still have that flashlight at the fort?" he asked.

"Sure do," Kevin said as he rushed off to get it.

When he returned he climbed down with Harry, and together they pushed the old flooring aside. The light revealed inches of dust but nothing of much interest. It was kind of creepy because there were some spider webs hanging about. As Kevin started to climb out, his foot knocked against something solid. He directed the light to it, and there was a reflection. He pushed aside the dust to reveal a key!

The eyes of both boys grew huge. In their minds they could see the treasure chest the key would open. Harry grabbed the key and both boys clamored out of the hole. As soon as they were standing on something solid they started looking for the lock the key fit. They scoured the place every day for a week, but they never found a lock it fit. Eventually, they hung it up in their fort and jokingly called it the "key to the unknown."

7. What is a major event in the passage?

- A. Harry and Kevin hang the key in their fort.

- B. Harry falls through the floor in the farmhouse.
  - C. Harry and Kevin ride their bikes to the fort.
  - D. Harry and Kevin build a fort in the woods.
- 

8. Why does Harry ask Kevin for the flashlight?

- A. so he can look beneath the floor
  - B. so he can kill a spider with it
  - C. so Kevin will leave him alone
  - D. so he can avoid the worst dust
- 

Olympic athletes spend hours training starting at an early age. Those who do make it to the Olympic Games often do not win medals—and these are the top athletes of the world. Wilma Rudolph not only made it to the Olympics, she won three gold medals.

Wilma Rudolph was born on June 23, 1940, in St. Bethlehem, Tennessee. She came from a very big family. She was the 17th of 19 children in her family. The family moved to Clarksville, Tennessee, which is where Wilma grew up. When Wilma was young, she had polio and scarlet fever. The polio left her without the use of one of her legs. She needed to wear leg braces to walk. Eventually, she was able to walk with a special shoe. After about three years, she didn't need the special shoe anymore.

In high school, Wilma played basketball and ran track. She broke all the state basketball records and won all her track meets. Wilma went to Tennessee State University and started training for the Olympics. In July of 1960, Wilma went to the Olympics in Rome, Italy. She won three gold medals and was called the "World's Fastest Woman." She was later named female athlete of the year.

Wilma became a coach and an athletic consultant in Chicago, Illinois. She died in 1994 of a brain tumor. Wilma will be remembered for her courage as a young child overcoming her illness, her athletic ability, and her dedication to reaching her goals. To this day, Wilma's life continues to inspire people to reach their personal goals.

9. Which of the following phrases **best** describes Wilma Rudolph?

- A. extremely wealthy
  - B. determined to excel
  - C. easily discouraged
  - D. disappointed to be a coach
- 

10. According to the passage, by overcoming childhood diseases and going on to win Olympic medals, Wilma Rudolph became

- A. a well-known doctor.
- B. a critic of others.
- C. an inspiration to others.
- D. a sportscaster.

---

## The Perfect Job

by Courtney Goff

Noah had not expected to be so nervous on his first day, but his hands trembled as he drove down the highway. He looked down to see the nametag in his lap. *Yup, this is definitely real*, Noah thought.

Noah had completed what seemed like thousands of applications over the past few months, and he had waited anxiously by the phone for someone to call him back. Noah's mom joked that he had worn a permanent spot in their couch from sitting there so long.

It seemed awfully early, with the sun just rising above the gigantic pines that lined the road. Of course, it was a Saturday, and Noah was usually not awake before noon. He put on his sunglasses to guard against the glare, and switched on the radio to calm his nerves. He sang along for a few minutes thinking about his interview the week before. Noah was supposed to see a manager named Timothy today so that he could fill out more paperwork, and then Noah hoped he would be able to start working.

He remembered what the teacher in his career class had said about the responsibility of a first job. Noah knew that his performance would be important to people who wanted to hire him later, and he was determined to do his best. Noah pulled into a parking lot in front of the two-story building. Now, his hands began to sweat as well as tremble, and his heart thudded in his ears as he got out of the car and headed toward the store. Noah clipped the nametag onto his shirt pocket and then opened the glass door.

The store was not filled with customers yet, and a "CLOSED" sign still hung on the door. Noah was relieved that he would not be tossed into the middle of things right away. He wandered toward the customer service desk, unsure of where he could find Timothy. Several employees stood at the tops of ladders placing books into the high shelves near the ceiling. *Good thing I'm not afraid of heights*, Noah thought. He reached the customer service desk in the center of the first floor and waited for a moment, one hand fidgeting with his nametag. From the corner of his eye, Noah spotted someone hurrying toward him, and he turned to see a man whose nametag said "Timothy."

"Hi, I'm Noah," Noah said, extending his hand.

Timothy shook Noah's hand firmly. "Hi, Noah, it's good to see you," Timothy replied brightly. "Are you ready to start?"

Noah smiled. "Sure!"

Timothy disappeared behind the counter at the customer service desk and came up with a stack of forms and a pen. "Fill these out, and when you're finished, I'll show you around."

Noah filled the forms out quickly with all the basic information: name, birth date, and phone number. He handed the forms back to Timothy, who put them in a folder and slid

it under the counter.

They walked up and down the aisles stuffed with books with Timothy pointing out each section along the way, and Noah found out that they both liked to read about history. As Timothy explained how to use the cash register, Noah knew he had found the perfect job.

11. Which sentence from the story **best** shows that it is set in a bookstore?

- A. "Several employees stood at the tops of ladders placing books into the high shelves near the ceiling."
  - B. "Noah clipped the nametag onto his shirt pocket and then opened the glass door."
  - C. "As Timothy explained how to use the cash register, Noah knew he had found the perfect job."
  - D. "He wandered toward the customer service desk, unsure of where he could find Timothy."
- 

12. Which sentence from the story **best** shows the setting?

- A. "Of course, it was a Saturday, and Noah was usually not awake until noon."
  - B. "He remembered what the teacher in his career class had said about the responsibility of a first job."
  - C. "He looked down to see the nametag in his lap."
  - D. "He sang along for a few minutes, thinking about his interview the week before."
- 

### Cleanup Crew

After working in the blistering sun all day, Yoshi returned to her bungalow at the far end of the beach. She knew volunteering for the cleanup crew after the storm would require long days and hard work. Clearing the fallen branches and debris was not the problem. She was strong and felt capable of all the lifting, carrying, and dragging. It was the heat that made this job particularly difficult.

Lately, the weather seemed to be unable to make up its mind. First there was the storm, which brought heavy rains and wind damage to the coastline. Then, the very next day, it turned sunny and beautiful. By the time the cleanup crew was organized, temperatures had risen to over 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

Yoshi opened all the windows and sat down on her mat. The cool evening breeze flowing in was a welcome contrast to the heat of the day, and the bungalow seemed to breathe a sigh of relief. She felt drained, sore, and tired, but she also felt honored that she was able to help with such an important effort.

13. The author uses the phrase "the bungalow seemed to breathe a sigh of relief" to show that

- A. Yoshi felt as if she was completely out of breath.

- B. the temperature inside the bungalow was rising.
  - C. Yoshi felt very satisfied from the day of work.
  - D. cool air was circulating throughout the bungalow.
- 

14. Max was a stubborn dog. He would not listen if I told him not to misbehave. I was getting tired of his tantrums, but at the same time, I loved Max. He was stubborn all right, but he was a great guard dog. I've never had to worry about leaving the house locked up. Max took care of the house when I was away. Nobody dared trespass because they knew how ferocious he was. Max loved animal crackers, and he would listen to me at the drop of a hat when I offered the crackers to him.

The phrase at the drop of a hat means Max

- A. was fond of playing with hats.
  - B. listened when his owner dropped a hat.
  - C. loved dropping the hat and picking it up.
  - D. was willing to do something immediately.
- 

15. Stacy couldn't wait to get to Macy's the first thing in the morning. She wanted to be one of those people that stood outside the store and rushed in as soon as the doors were open. She put on her clothes and wore comfortable shoes in case she had to wait awhile. When she got there, a whole bunch of people were already in line. She didn't mind waiting, though. As soon as the doors were open, Stacy rushed in with the others. She wanted to buy gifts for family and friends for the holidays. Since Stacy had to save up for school, she didn't want to pay an arm and a leg to buy the gifts.

The phrase an arm and a leg means that Stacy

- A. did not want to use her hands and legs.
  - B. did not want to walk to the shopping mall.
  - C. did not like touching things while shopping.
  - D. did not want to spend a lot of money.
-