

Put your name on the paper and your class period.

Title your paper: Tobias Wolff Story Unit

Write neatly. If I cannot read your answers, I will mark them wrong.

POWDER

- Which of the following excerpts does **not** describe the narrator's mood in the first section of the story?
 - "He promised, hand on heart, to take good care of me and have me home for dinner on Christmas Eve, and she relented."
 - "He was indifferent to my fretting."
 - "I stuck to him like white on rice and did what he did and somehow made it to the bottom without sailing off a cliff."
 - "I swayed from foot to foot, clapping my mittens and wishing I was home."
- Read the sentences from section 1.
"I could see everything. The green tablecloth, the plates with the holly pattern, the red candles waiting to be lit."
The primary purpose of the text above is to
 - indicate how angry the narrator is
 - describe how the narrator would rather be home
 - explain how reckless the narrator's father is
 - support the idea that the narrator's mother should not have trusted his father
- (*inferencing*) Read the excerpt below.
"My father sat with both hands on the wheel, rubbing the wood with his thumbs. He looked at the barricade for a long time. He seemed to be trying to master the idea of it."
In this sentence, the author uses descriptive language to describe how the father feels
 - Careless
 - Anxious
 - Excited
 - Panicked
- (*organization*) The story reflects the history of the father and the mother
In the height of their love
 - After the divorce
 - At the beginning of their relationship
 - Before the divorce
- (*inferencing*) The quote, "If you haven't driven fresh powder, you haven't driven" means
 - If you haven't driven a car, you don't know how to drive one.
 - You can only experience some things when you do it yourself.
 - If you haven't driven a car in the snow, you've never experienced the full range of a car.
 - It is hard to drive a car on the snow because you cannot see the road.
- (*tone*) The tone of the selection can best be described as
 - Whimsical
 - Nostalgic
 - Skeptical
 - Depressing
- (*characterization*) From the description of the father's driving in the last paragraph, the reader can infer that
 - The father was reckless
 - The road was dangerous
 - The narrator was proud to be his son

- d. The father was not going to make it home on time

MORTALS

8. The author most likely named the story "Mortals" to
- reflect the fact that every person dies, and there is nothing anyone can do about it.
 - focus on the concept that as humans, we share the same fate and should be good to one another.
 - highlight the theme that humans worry about whether their lives will seem significant after they die.
 - show the idea we are all going to die one day, we should therefore enjoy our lives as much as possible.
9. Which of the following is not characterizations of Mr. Givens?
- He has ruddy skin with burst blood vessels
 - He is nervous and pacing in the editor's office
 - He is angry and confrontational
 - He laughs and says that the obituary is accurate
10. The following quote from the story shows an example of what literary device?

tices and impersonating undertakers. Now I saw that this was foolish of me, and showed a radical failure of appreciation for the varieties of human pleasure.

- Satire
 - Alliteration
 - Foreshadowing
 - Metonymy
11. The following line from the story discusses which theme of the passage?
- didn't understand what had happened. The words of death had been pronounced on him, and now his life would be lived in relation to those words, in failing opposition to them, until they overpowered him and became true.**
- You have to be responsible for the things you do in life.
 - You can have a big name and still not be a big person
 - We should all hope to get a glimpse at our own obituaries.
 - We will all eventually succumb to death.

SMOKERS

12. What accomplishment did Eugene acquire?
- He broke the conference butterfly record against Kent
 - He was named to the varsity baseball team
 - He won the school's spelling bee
 - He convinced the dean to change the policy against smoking
13. What publication did the narrator write for?
- Off the Record, the school journal
 - The Troubadour
 - The Sampler
 - Utopia

14. What school were they going to?
- Choate
 - Harvard
 - Yale
 - Emerson
15. What sport did the narrator play to try to impress Talbot?
- Football
 - Basketball
 - Swimming
 - Lacrosse
16. Where did Eugene go for Christmas?
- Boston with Talbot Nelvin
 - Baltimore with his aunt and uncle
 - Idaho to see his family
 - He stayed at the school
17. Who caught Eugene smoking?
- Big John
 - The narrator
 - The dean
 - Talbot
18. Who was the kids roommate in the beginning?
- Talbot Nevin
 - Big John
 - Eugene
 - Jaime, a Nazi Chilean

TWO BOYS AND A GIRL

19. Which of the following is the best interpretation of the sentence from the passage?

That pleased him. Gilbert believed disillusionment to be the natural consequence, even the duty, of a mind that could cut through the authorized version to the true nature of things.

- He thought people should maintain their illusions as long as they could
 - He felt people should find something they believe in and hold tight to it
 - He believed perceptive people had a duty to reveal truths they saw in everyday situations
 - He believe he was superior to others and enjoyed condescending to them
20. Which of the following is NOT a character in the story?
- Mary Ann
 - Talbot Nevin
 - Gilbert
 - Captain McCoy
21. What does the following excerpt tell the reader about Rafe and Gilbert's relationship?

to talk but Rafe was playing his six-record set of *I Pagliacci*, which Gilbert didn't believe he really liked, though Rafe made occasional humming noises as if he knew the whole score by heart. Gilbert thought he was taking up

- a. They are the best of friends, and Gilbert is committed to Rafe.
 - b. Gilbert thinks Rafe sometimes does things just to impress people
 - c. Gilbert is jealous of Rafe's more affluent lifestyle
 - d. Rafe works hard to impress Gilbert and Mary Ann
22. What truth did Gilbert reveal to Mary Ann?
- a. He resented Rafe and wanted to run away with her
 - b. He had not been accepted to Amherst
 - c. He was secretly in love with Rafe
 - d. He wanted to become a beatnik
23. How does Gilbert's reaction to Mary Ann's house give us insight into Mary Ann?

The grandfather clock chimed the Westminster Bells, then struck twelve times. The clock had been made to go with the living room ensemble and its tone, tinny and untrue, set Gilbert on edge. The whole house set him on edge: the pictures, the matching Colonial furniture, the single bookshelf full of condensed books. It was like a house Russian spies would practice being Americans in.

- a. It gives us the idea that she (and her care for him) is surface just like the house is only a "set up" of a typical American house
 - b. It tells us that she is privileged
 - c. We see that Captain McCoy and Mary Ann are Russian operatives
 - d. It becomes clear that Mary Ann is not interested in Gilbert.
24. What common strand runs through most of Tobias Wolff's writing that is revealed in the excerpt below?

somewhat more calculating. Reasons always came with a purpose, to give the appearance of a struggle between principle and desire. But there'd been no struggle. Principle had power only until you found what you had to have.

- a. Characters justifying their behavior and/or betrayal of others
 - b. Characters who are jaded about life
 - c. Characters making difficult decisions
 - d. Characters who are true to themselves in the face of criticism
25. Give three examples of betrayal in the stories we read.
- a. Number them, give the story title and who betrayed whom
26. Give three examples of justification in the stories we read.
- a. Number them, give the story title and explain who lied and why.
27. Complete the analogy.
- a. Eugene is to the narrator of Smokers as Rafe is to _____.
28. Complete the analogy.
- a. Talbot is to Eugene as Mary Ann is to _____.

29. Complete the analogy.

a. Talbot is to Rafe as the narrator of Smokers is to _____.