

## Study Guide ELA6 Semester Two 2019

Refer to the study guide of Literary Terms to review:

allusion	mood	verbal irony	denotation
symbol	connotation	situational irony	genre
tone	dialogue	dramatic irony	theme
point of view	schema	biography	realistic fiction

Review your notes for figurative language: similes, metaphors, idioms, personification, hyperbole, and imagery.

**Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.**

### **Good Sons Finish Last**

- (1) The meteorologist predicted no rain in the forecast. A few clouds floated in the sky, but the sun shone through brightly. It looked to be a pleasant spring day.
- (2) We arrived at the mountain range a few minutes before the start of the race. “Are you ready?” Dad asked. “I sure am!” I answered him with confidence that was as fake as a three-dollar bill. My last place finish from the week before still stung.
- (3) We put on our helmets and headed for the starting line. Nearly a hundred cyclists were already lined up ready to race. Thirty seconds later, the referee waved his black and white checkered flag. “On your mark! Get set! Go!”
- (4) The concrete trail wandered through the green, lush grass at the base of the mountain. The flat terrain began to rise in elevation. By the end of the first mile, the trail headed up the side of the mountain. Green, blue, red, and yellow blurs rode past me at the speed of light. At some point, I realized I was in last place. Again.
- (5) “You alright back there?” Dad called over his shoulder. “Mmmmmnnn,” I grunted as nonchalantly as I could manage, hoping Dad couldn’t detect my true level of exhaustion.

(6) I took a deep breath and dug deeper inside myself. I put my head down and arched my back to better block the wind. My legs pushed harder. My throat begged for water, but I couldn't afford myself an extra second to grab for the bottle that was strapped to my bike. I could see my Dad's red and yellow helmet ahead of me. My eyes fixated on that helmet. Maybe I couldn't win the race, but at least I could catch up with Dad. Now we were descending down the mountain. The other cyclists stopped pedaling and coasted down the winding road. I did not slow down. I had almost caught up to Dad.

(7) "There you go, son! Catch me if you can!"

(8) Just as Dad pedaled quicker to stay in front, he clipped the back wheel of another cyclist's bike. Dad pressed hard on his breaks, hoping to regain his balance, but it was too late. He fell off his bike and slid down the side of the mountain until a tree stopped him. I jumped off my bike and ran over to him. "Keep going!" Dad yelled, picking himself up from the ground with the stability of an 80-year-old man. Blood poured from his knee. "You're almost finished!"

(9) Other cyclists were already crossing the finish line. Dad could not finish the race with his injury. The finish line was only about 500 feet away, I realized. I could finish the race and then come back and help my dad. I did not want to come in last place again.

(10) I could hear him cheering. "You can do it, son! Do it for us!"

(11) But with my dad on the sideline, there was no *us*. I wanted to finish, but I didn't want to finish without him. I helped my Dad sit on my bicycle. I pulled it across the final 500 feet across the finish line. We finished together, in last place.

1. Setting is where and when a story takes place and is identified in a story's exposition. Identify details of setting as described in the story's exposition.
2. Identify the story's main character or protagonist. Explain how you know.
3. Identify the story's main conflict. Is it internal or external? How do you know? Identify a complication that supports the story's main conflict.
4. Identify the genre of the short story "**Good Sons Finish Last.**" What are the

characteristics of this specific genre?

5. Point of view is the perspective from which a story is told. In other words, who is telling the story - a character in the story or an outside narrator? From what point of view is this story told? What are the clues in the story that helped you determine the story's POV?
6. Identify the story's climax or the turning point in the story. Remember: This is the most intense part of the story.
7. Find examples of direct and indirect characterization from the story. These are the details that help you understand a character's personality. Remember: **STEAL**
8. Know the difference between a static character and a dynamic character. Dynamic characters undergo significant internal changes over the course of the story. Static characters do not undergo any significant changes over the course of the story.
9. Identify a major story event from "**Good Sons Finish Last.**"
10. What can you infer or conclude about the son's feelings for his dad?
11. Identify a major theme as revealed in the story.

**Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.**

**Getting Help with Math**

It's nine o'clock on a Tuesday night. You are trying to finish your math assignment. You have only two problems left to go. Almost done! You are looking forward to a nice snack and your favorite TV show. You read the next problem and groan. You don't have a clue how to do it. You may check your notes from class. Or you may try reading your textbook. But the problem might as well be written in a foreign language.

Does this sound familiar? Most people who have taken any kind of math class have had this experience. What do you do when you get stuck? Perhaps you call a friend. Or you ask a family member for help. But what if it's late at night?

Years ago there were very few ways to get help if you were stuck on a math problem. Math is different from other school subjects. You often cannot find what to do in a book. A dictionary or even an encyclopedia probably won't help you. You need someone to show you the steps. Learning most kinds of math is something like learning to play a musical instrument. You need a coach to show you what to do.

In many areas there are homework telephone lines. These hot lines have volunteers. They can help you do homework in all subjects. A math volunteer can explain the steps in a math problem that has you stumped.

Today you can also get help on the Internet. There are several homework programs and Web pages. In some, you leave your question on a message board. Or you write it in an e-mail note. In other math help programs there are live volunteer teachers. You can wait for a real math teacher to help you do the problem.

12. Identify the main idea of the passage. Remember you are looking for the most important thought about the topic. Ask yourself: "What is being said about the person, thing, or idea (the topic)?"
13. What details (supporting details) explain, clarify, and illustrate the passage's main idea?
14. What conclusion does the author make about getting help with math?

### **The Common Cold**

Got the sniffles? You are not alone. The common cold will strike in the United States more than 61 million times this year. That's a lot of stuffy noses, sore throats,

and coughs. You'd think scientists would have found a cure by now. For being so common, however, a cold is quite complex.

A cold is caused by a virus. And it's not just one type of virus. More than 200 viruses cause colds. A cold virus attacks healthy cells of the nose, throat, or lungs. The virus gets into the cells and takes control. A single virus makes hundreds or thousands of cold viruses inside each cell. Eventually, the cell bursts open and dies. The viruses, though, escape and attack other healthy cells. By now you're sneezing and coughing. Your throat is sore. The viruses keep infecting your healthy cells.

Only your body can fight cold viruses. Billions of white blood cells travel in the blood. White blood cells make antibodies. These proteins attach themselves to viruses and destroy them. It's a slow process. Killing the viruses takes one to two weeks.

What can you do to fight a cold? There isn't much you can do. Antibiotic drugs don't work against viruses. Nose drops and cough medicines only relieve symptoms. Chicken soup seems to help. Vitamin C may help too. A dose of 1,000 milligrams of Vitamin C on the first day of a cold may quicken your recovery.

Be healthy and you may not catch a cold at all. Eat a well-balanced diet and get eight hours of sleep each day. Exercise regularly. The cold virus spreads through the air, so stay away from coughing, sneezing people. Also, the cold virus can live up to three hours outside the body. That means you can pick it up from touching money, doorknobs, and other people. So wash your hands often. Prevention is the best action!

15. Identify the main idea of the passage.
16. What details in the passage support the main idea?
17. What conclusion does the author make about the common cold?

### **Some Kinds of Poetry**

You deal with poetry more than you probably think. It may not always be good poetry, but the words of many songs are poems. They use rhyme and strong images or

pictures painted in words. You may also find poems on some greeting cards. The best of these will quote a poem from some well-known writer.

Generally we say that there are two kinds of poetry. These are the lyric poem and the narrative poem. A lyric is usually a short poem. It does not tell a story. Instead, it expresses some emotion. For example, a poet may write a lyric poem about getting his child to bed. He does not tell about everything that happens. But he may pick up one small part, such as tucking the child in. He may describe this in a line or two. Then he may go on to tell his thoughts and memories. Maybe he thinks of his other children when they were young. Maybe he remembers his own childhood. Expressing his feelings in verse, he writes a lyric poem.

Narrative poems are poems that tell stories. Some people find these easier to understand than lyric poems. There are many different types of narrative poems. For instance, you may know about ballads. These are often stories about unhappy love affairs. They can also be about characters such as Jesse James. Some are about tragedies such as the sinking of a ship. Ballads have a lot of action and dialogue. The rhyme in them is often also very strong.

Some narrative poems have little or no rhyme. One famous writer of narrative poems was Robert Frost. Frost lived on a farm in New England. Many of his narratives were about that life. Couples would argue. People would die. Their stories came to life in Frost's poems.

18. Identify the main idea of the passage.
19. What details in the passage support the main idea?
20. What is the difference between a narrative poem and a lyric poem?

Know how to use **context clues**:

Reread the sentence before and after the unknown word.

Examine word parts (prefixes, suffixes and root words) that can help you figure out the meaning of the unknown word.

Examine key words in the sentence.

Analyze or think about the context clues and connect what you know about them to what the author has written and think about a possible meaning for that unknown word.

Determine or decide if you have figured out the correct meaning by substituting your meaning in the sentence.

Determine what type of context the word was in (synonym, compare, description, or antonym).