

English Semester Exam Study Guide

Identify the setting in each passage. Provide details from the passage to support your answer.

As the night ended, the sun splashed across Casey's bed. He opened his eyes slowly. The first thing he saw was the beautiful blue ribbon on his bookshelf.

Oscar thought it was time to get a breath of air, so he began to make his way to the surface. Before he reached it, a large shadow came toward him. Was it a shark? He thought of his parents on the beach. Would this be the end of vacation?

Jenny ran as fast as she could down the path. There were trees in front of her, trees behind her, and trees on both sides. While the snow was falling heavily in the valley, only a few snowflakes made it to the ground around her.

Kwamba the lion cub rolled around near her mother's feet. Her mother would be leaving soon to start to hunt. While humans could not see in the darkness, it was easy for lions. Kwamba hoped her mother would get a gazelle. Those were her favorite dinners.

Read the passage and write the type of point of view. Provide details from the passage to support your answer.

My father had a small estate in Nottinghamshire: I was the third of five sons. He sent me to Emanuel College in Cambridge at fourteen years old, where I resided three years, and applied myself close to my studies...

Mr. Sherlock Holmes, who was usually very late in the mornings, save upon those not infrequent occasions when he was up all night, was seated at the breakfast table. I stood upon the hearth-rug and picked up the stick which our visitor had left behind him the night before.

Mary asked no more questions but waited in the darkness of her corner, keeping her eyes on the window. The carriage lamps cast rays of light a little distance ahead of them and she caught glimpses of the things they passed.

Phileas Fogg was seated squarely in his armchair, his feet close together like those of a grenadier on parade, his hands resting on his knees, his body straight, his head erect; he was steadily watching a complicated clock which indicated the hours, the minutes, the seconds, the days, the months, and the years.

At first I hated the school, but by and by I got so I could stand it. Whenever I got uncommon tired I played hookey, and the hiding I got next day done me good and cheered me up. So the longer I went to school the easier it got to be.

Poor Jo would gladly have gone under the table, as one thing after another was tasted and left; while Amy giggled, Meg looked distressed, Miss Crocker pursed up her lips, and Laurie talked and laughed with all his might, to give a cheerful tone to the festive scene.

Fill in the blank with the word that best completes the sentence about Conflict.

1. A _____ is a struggle between two or more individuals or groups.
2. A struggle between man and some force outside himself is an _____
_____.
3. _____ is a struggle that takes place within an
individual.
4. The three types of external conflict are _____, _____, and
_____.
5. Internal conflict is referred to as Man vs. _____.

Write your own example of the following conflict:

Man vs Man
Man vs Self
Man vs Nature
Man vs Society

Identify the type of conflict in the passage.

After breaking his mother's favorite vase, Casey struggles to decide whether he should tell his mother the truth and face the consequences, or whether he should attempt to hide his mistake and blame the family dog.

Janie is on a whitewater-rafting trip along a choppy river when their guide suddenly has a heart attack. Now she and the other passengers must learn to work together to survive the treacherous rapids. As if things weren't bad enough, some of the passengers spotted a bear following the confused rafters along the shore. Will Janie make it home safely?

Ronny has won second place in the science fair for the last two years, and Newton Robinson has taken first. Ronny hated how Newton gloated and held these victories high over Ronny's head. This year, Ronny will stop at nothing to beat Newton. He has even enlisted the help of a Nobel Prize nominated scientist who was banished from the scientific community for his rouge experiments. Can Ronny and his mad scientist partner win against the undefeated Newton at this year's science fair?

Everything was going just fine for Mae until yesterday. That was when she found out that her eyes were turning green. In Mae's world people discriminate against those with green eyes. Green-eyed people cannot vote or hold public office and they are often forced to work the worst jobs for the least pay, if they can even find a job. Mae parents want her to have surgery to change her eye color, but her grandma, who also has green eyes, encourages her to fight for her rights. With her grandma behind her, Mae joins a resistance movement and becomes the poster child for green-eyed rights, but how will all of this attention affect Mae's family, especially her parents who wanted her to hide who she was?

Read each passage and then respond to the questions. Each question will ask you to make a logical inference based on textual details. **Explain your answer by referencing the text.**

Mr. Thomas sat on the front porch of his house in a bathrobe and bunny slippers with his head in his hands. He was holding the daily newspaper. The sun shined brightly in the sky. His neighbors were coming out of their houses and getting in their cars. Mr. Thomas sighed. His neighbor Mr. Rosencrantz stepped out on his porch and saw Mr. Thomas. "Did it again, huh?" said Mr. Rosencrantz. Mr. Thomas replied, "Yep." Mr. Rosencrantz chuckled and said, "Here, Mr. Thomas, you can use my cell phone. I could even keep a key over here if you wanted." Tom thankfully grabbed the cell phone and called his wife. "Honey, I did it again." Mr. Rosencrantz heard Mrs. Thomas yelling at Mr. Thomas in a distorted high-pitched squeal. "Yes, dear. I'm so sorry. I'll see you soon," Mr. Thomas returned the phone, sighed deeply, and ran his fingers through his hair.

1. What is the thing that Mr. Thomas "did again"?

How do you know this?

2. Why will Mr. Thomas see Mrs. Thomas soon?

How do you know this?

Mr. Ericson was a manager at a small insurance company in Minnesota. One cold winter day, April McKenzie, one of his employees, approached him about some time off from work. "This job is very important to me, Mr. Ericson, but I've been called into jury duty. When my government asks for my help, I have to answer the call." Mr. Ericson rubbed his forehead. "We really need you here, April, but the government needs you more. Take the time. We'll be alright." Mr. Ericson had thought that they needed her there at the office, but they managed fine without her. When April returned a week later, Mr. Ericson noticed that most of her skin was bright shade of red except for around her eyes. Pale white circles ran from the top of her eyebrows to the bottom of her cheeks. These pale circles were surrounded by sunburned flesh. That's when Mr. Ericson knew. "April, step into my office. There are some things we need to discuss," Mr. Ericson said ominously.

3. Where was April?

How do you know this?

4. What does Mr. Ericson want to talk about with April?

How do you know this?

5. Why does April have white circles around her eyes?

How do you know this?

Read each passage and ask yourself, "What is the author doing in this paragraph?" Write your answer in the summary box and then think of an appropriate title for the passage based on the main idea of the passage.

1. A penny for your thoughts? If it's a 1943 copper penny, it could be worth as much as fifty thousand dollars. In 1943, most pennies were made out of steel since copper was needed for World War II, so the 1943 copper penny is ultra-rare. Another rarity is the 1955 double die penny. These pennies were mistakenly double stamped, so they have overlapping dates and letters. If it's uncirculated, it'd easily fetch \$25,000 at an auction. Now that's a pretty penny.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

2. Before you put on that skeleton costume and rove door-to-door pandering for candy, take a minute to reflect on this tradition. Halloween is believed to have come from an ancient Celtic festival dating back some 2,000 years. November 1st was the Celtic New Year and marked the end of summer to the Celts. They celebrated on its eve by wearing costumes made of animal skins and dancing around bon fires. Over the next two millennia, this primitive celebration grew to be the candy fueled costume ball that we know today.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

3. When one hears the term "reality" applied to a show, one might expect that the events portrayed occurred naturally or, at the least, were not scripted. This is not always the case. Many reality shows occur in unreal environments, like rented mansions occupied by film crews. Such living environments do not reflect what most people understand to be "reality." Worse, there have been accusations that events not captured on film were later restaged by producers. Worse still, some involved in the production of "reality" television claim that the participants were urged to act out story lines premeditated by producers. With such accusations floating around, it's no wonder many people take reality TV to be about as real as the sitcom.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

Read the following passages. Determine what event is likely to occur next. Explain your answer using textual evidence.

Vince Thunder waved to the crowd one more time before he put on his motorcycle helmet. The crowd cheered uproariously. Vince looked down the ramp and across the 17 school busses that he was about to attempt to jump. It was a difficult trick and everything would need to go right for him to nail it. His cape blew in the wind. As Vince hopped on his motorcycle and started down the ramp, he noticed something that he had not seen before. There was large oil slick at the end of the ramp. He attempted to stop the bike, but it was too late. He had already built up too much momentum...

1. What event is most likely to occur next?

2. What evidence from the text supports your prediction?

Rex sat at the mouth of the alley and chewed the bone that he had found by the dumpster. It was a meaty bone that had belonged to a larger animal, perhaps a state fair prize winning pig. Rex was attracted to the bone by its strong scent. Apparently, he was not the only one who could smell it. He heard the jangle of tags behind him and turned to see a larger dog. Rex released the bone and began growling at the other dog. The other dog began growling at Rex. The two dogs inched toward one another, maintaining eye contact. Each began growling louder as the other approached within striking distance...

3. What event is most likely to occur next?

4. What evidence from the text supports your prediction?

John sat in the classroom and drew pictures of the Tatakai Fighting Warriors in his notebook while his teacher lectured about biology or something. He didn't really know for sure. The last thing he remembered her saying was that there would be a test tomorrow. His heart jumped. He went home to study for the test, but he was soon drawn to his Game Box. He played Tatakai Fighting Warriors long into the night. When his alarm clock rang the next day, he was too tired to hit the snooze button, so he let it beep for about 20 minutes before he got up and went to school. As she had promised, the teacher has prepared a test. She reviewed the testing procedures and directions with the class and then passed out the test. John looked at his test and scratched his head...

5. What event is most likely to occur next?

6. What evidence from the text supports your prediction?

Define the following terms:

Plot-

Setting-

Dialogue-

Irony-

Symbol-

Theme-

Protagonist-

Antagonist-

Internal Conflict-

External Conflict-

Narrator-

First person-

Third person-

Genre-

Fact-

Opinion-

Point of View-