

Name: _____

Midterm Review Guide

1. What are the different types of conflict? Give an example of each.
 - a. _____ vs. _____

 - b. _____ vs. _____

 - c. _____ vs. _____

 - d. _____ vs. _____

2. What is theme? Describe and give an example from one of the stories we read/watched together this semester.

3. How can you figure out the theme of a story?

4. What 4 purposes do authors usually write for? (Hint: Look at your notes from the textbook stories)

5. What is setting and what are a few ways setting can impact characters and create conflicts? Give examples of this.

Read the following passage and answer the following questions.

(1) People regarded the cat in ancient Egypt as a sacred animal. (2) Of grain cats were the protectors, killing any animals that might eat this staple of Egyptian diet. (3) Anyone who purposely or accidentally killed a cat was put to death. (4) Egyptians so revered the animal that many Egyptian goddesses took the form of a cat. (5) Mafdet, Sekhmet, and Bastet is examples of ancient Egyptian cat goddesses. (6) Neither Mafdet nor Sekhmet were quite as celebrated as Bastet, though. (7) Beauty, fertility, and motherhood was three of the qualities for which Egyptians worshipped Bastet. (8) In the city of Bubastis, Egyptians would hold a yearly festival to celebrate her. (9) In Bubastis and Memphis, large cemeteries were devoted to the burial of mummified cats.

15. . What is the BEST way to improve the placement of modifiers in sentence 1?
- The cat people regarded in ancient Egypt as a sacred animal.
 - People regarded in ancient Egypt the cat as a sacred animal.
 - In ancient Egypt people regarded the cat as a sacred animal.
 - The cat as a sacred animal the people regarded in ancient Egypt.
16. What is the BEST way to improve the placement of modifiers in sentence 2?
- Cats were of grain the protectors, killing any animal that might eat of Egyptian diet this staple.
 - Of grain cats were the protectors, killing any animal of Egyptian diet that might eat this staple.
 - Cats were the protectors of grain, killing any animal that might eat of Egyptian diet this staple.
 - Cats were the protectors of grain, killing any animal that might eat this staple of Egyptian diet.
17. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 5?
- Change is to was
 - Change is to has been
 - Change is to are
 - Make no change
18. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 6?
- Change were to was
 - Change were to am
 - Change were to have been
 - Make no change'
19. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 7?
- Change was to were
 - Change was to has been
 - Change was to am
 - Make no change

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

A Blind Man Catches a Bird

by Alexander McCall Smith

- 1 A young man married a woman whose brother was blind. The young man was eager to get to know his new brother-in-law and so asked him if he would like to go hunting with him.
- 2 "I cannot see," the blind man said. "But you can help me see when we are out hunting together. We can go."

3 The young man led the blind man off into the bush. At first they followed a path that he knew and it was easy for the blind man to tag on behind the other. After a while, though, they went off into thicker bush, where the trees grew closely together and there were many places for animals to hide. The blind man now held on to the arm of his sighted brother-in-law and told him many things about the sounds that they heard around them. Because he had no sight, he had a great ability to interpret the noises made by animals in the bush.

4 “There are warthogs around,” he would say, “I can hear their noises over there.”

5 Or: “That bird is preparing to fly. Listen to the sound of its wings unfolding.”

6 To the brother-in-law, these sounds were meaningless, and he was most impressed at the blind man’s ability to understand the bush although it must have been for him one great darkness.

7 They walked on for several hours, until they reached a place where they could set their traps. The blind man followed the other’s advice, and put his trap in a place where birds might come for water. The other man put his trap a short distance away, taking care to disguise it so that no bird would know that it was there. He did not bother to disguise the blind man’s trap, as it was hot and he was eager to get home to his new wife. The blind man thought that he had disguised his trap, but he did not see that he failed to do so and any bird could tell there was a trap there.

8 They returned to their hunting place the next day. The blind man was excited at the prospect of having caught something, and the young man had to tell him to keep quiet, or he would scare all of the animals away. Even before they reached the traps, the blind man was able to tell that they had caught something.

9 “I can hear birds,” he said. “There are birds in the traps.”

10 When he reached his trap, the young man saw that he had caught a small bird. He took it out of the trap and put it in a pouch that he had brought with him. Then the two of them walked towards the blind man’s trap.

11 “There is a bird in it,” he said to the blind man. “You have caught a bird too.”

12 As he spoke, he felt himself filling with jealousy. The blind man’s bird was marvelously colored, as if it had flown through a rainbow and been stained by the colors. The feathers from a bird such as that would make a fine present for his new wife, but the blind man had a wife too, and she would also want the feathers.

13 The young man bent down and took the blind man’s bird from the trap. Then quickly substituting his own bird, he passed it to the blind man and put the colored bird into his own pouch.

14 “Here is your bird,” he said to the blind man. “You may put it in your pouch.”

15 The blind man reached out for the bird and took it. He felt it for a moment, his fingers passing over the wings and the breast. Then, without saying anything, he put the bird into his pouch and began the trip home.

16 On their way home, the two men stopped to rest under a broad tree. As they sat there, they talked about many things. The young man was impressed with the wisdom of the blind man, who knew a great deal, although he could see nothing at all.

- 17 “Why do people fight with one another?” he asked the blind man. It was a question which had always troubled him and he wondered if the blind man could give him an answer.
- 18 The blind man said nothing for a few moments, but it was clear to the young man that he was thinking. Then the blind man raised his head, and it seemed to the young man as if the unseeing eyes were staring right into his soul. Quietly he gave his answer.
- 19 “Men fight because they do to each other what you have just done to me.”
- 20 The words shocked the young man and made him ashamed. He tried to think of a response, but none came. Rising to his feet, he fetched his pouch, took out the brightly colored bird and gave it back to the blind man.
- 21 The blind man took the bird, felt it over with his fingers, and smiled.
- 22 “Do you have any other questions for me?” he asked.
- 23 “Yes,” said the young man. “How do men become friends after they have fought?”
- 24 The blind man smiled again.
- 25 “They do what you have just done,” he said. “That’s how they become friends again.”

20. The overall theme of the story is –
- people cheat others because it makes them feel smart
 - people should rely more on their hearing than on their sight
 - true friendship depends on respect and fairness
 - hunting is a good way to learn about animal behavior
21. Which quotation conveys one of the story’s themes?
- At first they followed a path that he knew and it was easy for the blind man to tag on behind the other. (paragraph 3)
 - The blind man followed the other’s advice, and put his trap in a place where birds might come for water. (paragraph 7)
 - When he reached his trap, the young man saw that he had caught a small bird. (paragraph 10)
 - The young man was impressed with the wisdom of the blind man, who knew a great deal, although he could see nothing at all. (paragraph 16)
22. The hunting trip could be a symbol of the —
- wisdom of a person who is blind
 - search for what is important in life
 - human struggle to control nature
 - difficulty of living without sight
23. The sounds in the bush are meaningless to the young man because —
- his ability to see limits his ability to hear
 - he cannot speak the language of the animals
 - a thick growth of trees muffles every sound
 - the blind man is talking in a loud voice
24. The disguised trap might symbolize the young man’s —
- carelessness
 - deceitfulness
 - foolishness
 - laziness

