Literature Test #1
Author’s Purpose, Plot and Conflict
Review

1. Read the following passages and identify the author’s purpose for writing each one.

1. There are good reasons to plant Iceland poppies now. First, they’ll be beautiful next spring; second, they come in many bright colors. Poppies can be started by planting seeds over bare ground this fall or setting out transplants.

a. to inform the reader  
b. to entertain the reader  
c. to persuade the reader

2. It’s warm! It’s comforting! It has luscious swirls of cinnamon and plump juice raisins. Enjoy Pepperidge Farm Cinnamon Raisin Swirl bread at your next breakfast!

a. To inform the reader  
b. to entertain the reader  
c. to persuade the reader

3. Call it the Olympics of the equestrian world: the 16-day World Equestrian Games, held the first time on American soil, features more than 60 countries competing in eight events, all sorts of exhibits and attractions, and thousands of spectators.

a. To inform the reader  
b. to entertain the reader  
c. to persuade the reader

4. When she looked up at the sky, all she could see was the beginning of creation. Her mind wandered to what life would be like if she didn’t have the worry of how they could make it through another drought on the ranch. Why couldn’t rain fall from that beautiful sky?

a. To inform the reader  
b. to entertain the reader  
c. to persuade the reader

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

from “How Becky Garza Learned Golf”
by Gary Soto

Dona Carmen Maria reached for one of the clubs in the bag. She said it was like a sword. She poked at the air and laughed to herself.

Becky didn’t smile. She was hot, thirsty, and uneasy with the old woman who again started to play with the mole on her throat. But Becky’s parents had always taught her to respect elders. And she had to respect Dona Carmen Maria because, if not, Becky feared the old woman would walk down the street and report her incivility. Becky could see herself grounded until she was as old as Dona Carmen Maria herself.

5. Describe what conflict is. **Conflict is a struggle between opposing forces or characters.**

6. Describe the difference between external and internal conflict. **External conflict is a conflict that takes place between a character and something outside the character.**

7. What are three types of external conflict a writer may use in a story? **Man vs. Man, Man vs. Nature and Man vs. Society**
8. Who is the main character in this story?
   a. Dona Carmen Maria
   b. Becky's parents
   c. Becky
   d. the golf instructor

9. What one type of conflict is the main character facing in this story?
   a. Internal conflict
   b. External conflict
   c. Man vs. nature
   d. Man vs. society

II. Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow.

The Lighthouse
By Katherine Sessor

The light house, the guardian angel of the night
She shines her light for all the lost sailors passing by
Her beam bright as the sun, flashing through the night sky

The lighthouse, a soldier during the storms
Standing tall, unafraid of the chaos
Her light piercing through the storm like sharp knives

The light house the night owl of the day
Sleeping and cozzed away until the night
Her beam off as silent as a deer not wanting to be found

10. How many stanzas are in this poem?
   a. one          b. two          c. three          d. four

11. What is the rhyme scheme of the first stanza?
   a. ABB          b. ABC          c. AAA          d. ACC

12. Which of the following lines from the poem is a simile?
   a. lighthouse, a soldier during the storms
   b. Her beam off as silent as a deer not wanting to be found
   c. Standing tall, unafraid of the chaos

13. What word best describes the tone of the poem?
   a. fear and terror          b. love and warmth          c. strength and safety
Read the passage, and then answer the questions that follow.

It began like any other summer day. Bright with a bit of haze hanging around the horizon, as if waiting for the searing heat to come by and carry it away. Life in the three-story house on Firewheel Drive seemed remarkably boring – table set for breakfast; the kids running up and down the stairs grabbing books and papers and other assorted essentials to stuff in backpacks.

As Lucy came down the stairs with a granola bar in one hand and her bag in the other, she spotted Eleanor, her older sister, putting on her shoes. “El, what do you think she’ll be like?”

“I dunno, Lucy. I just hope everyone likes her so she’ll stay,” replied Eleanor. “We ran the last one off so fast that dad had to take two days off work. And that better not happen again. Dad will hit the roof.”

Lucy thought for a minute and then shouted, “Okay, everyone. Freeze! She’s about to be here. Can you please, please, please pull out your best manners; put away your pranks; and remember why we need someone to help Dad?”

Gabe, Reese and Bob mumbled something under the breaths to which Lucy replied, “Please?!” At that moment, the doorbell rang. It usually sounded like a bluebird singing. Today it sounded more like a hawk screaming at them to answer the door.

As she opened the door, Lucy noticed a remarkable sense of order and calm come over all her siblings. And as this happened, she saw a small, stooped woman with a wide smile and a hat that appeared to be...sparkling.

14. What is the setting of this story?
   a. in the morning, at a house on Firewheel Drive
   b. before bed, at a house on Firewheel Drive
   c. near the horizon in the downtown area

15. Who are the characters of this passage?
   a. A small, stooped woman and her hat
   b. Lucy and her dad
   c. Lucy, her siblings and the small woman

16. Look at your plot diagram. Decide where each of the following events from the story would fit on the plot diagram.
   a. The doorbell rang.—climax
   b. The children’s morning routine of breakfast, packing backpacks, etc.—exposition
   c. Lucy’s question about what “she” will be like—rising action
   d. The small woman stands in the doorway with a sparkling hat.—resolution
   e. Calm and order appeared as Lucy opened the door.—falling action