**Skills List**

Argument & The Writing Process

* identifying the thesis statement of a passage
* identifying the organizational strategies of a passage
* Making inferences based on provided evidence
* Identifying the purpose of a passage (inform, persuade, entertain)
* Identifying arguments, specific details, conclusions, calls-to-action, and counterarguments

Grammar

* Correcting errors in capitalization
* Correcting errors in punctuation
* Identifying phrases
* Identifying dependent clauses
* Identifying independent clauses

Elements of Fiction

* figurative language
* simile
* metaphor
* onomatopoeia
* hyperbole
* personification
* tone
* mood
* idiom
* parallel structure
* theme
* point-of-view

Vocabulary in Context

Reading Comprehension

Making Inferences

Connotation & Denotation

**Section I. Reading Comprehension Practice**

*Read the following passage and answer the corresponding questions.*

*The Fault in Our Stars:* John Green

I think he must have fallen asleep. I did, eventually, and woke to the landing gear coming down. My mouth tasted horrible, and I tried to keep it shut for fear of poisoning the airplane. I looked over at Augustus, who was staring out the window, and as we dipped below the long-hung clouds, I straightened my back to see the Netherlands. The land seemed sunk into the ocean, little rectangles of green surrounded on all sides by canals. We landed, in fact, parallel to a canal, like there were two runways: one for us and one for waterfowl.

After getting our bags and clearing customs, we piled into a taxi driven by this doughy bald guy who spoke perfect English—like better English than I do. The cabbie pulled out into traffic and we headed toward a highway with lots of blue signs featuring double vowels: Oosthuizen, Haarlem. Beside the highway, flat empty land stretched for miles, interrupted by the occasional huge corporate headquarters. In short, Holland looked like Indianapolis, only with smaller cars.

1. To where is the narrator flying with her friend Augustus?
   1. Holland
   2. Paris
   3. Africa
   4. America
2. The narrator is shocked because her cabbie…
   1. Does not understand what she is saying to him.
   2. Drives off without letting them pay.
   3. Speaks better English than she does.
   4. Ignores them when they try to make conversation.
3. What does the narrator notice about their landing location when she looks out of the plane window?
   1. They are over the ocean.
   2. Where they are landing looks like it’s sinking into the ocean.
   3. Everything is covered in tulips.
   4. She can’t see through the clouds.

**Section II. Vocabulary in Context.**

*Read the following paragraphs and answer the corresponding questions.*

“All right, pal,” Finny spoke in his cordial, penetrating voice, that **reverberant** instrument in his chest, “don’t start awarding prizes until you’ve passed the course.”

1. Based on how it is used in the previous sentence, what is the meaning of **reverberant**?
   1. quiet
   2. loud
   3. annoying
   4. helpful

We were careless and wild, and I suppose we could be thought of as a sign of life the war was being fought to preserve. Anyway, they were more **indulgent** toward us than at any other time; they snapped at the heels of seniors. They noticed our games tolerantly.

1. Based on how it is used in the previous selection, what is the meaning of **indulgent**?
   1. generous
   2. angry
   3. strict
   4. excited

“Does it?” He used this **preoccupied** tone when he was thinking of something more interesting than what you had said. But his mind always recorded what was said and played it back to him when there was time.

1. Based on how it is used in the previous selection, what is the meaning of **preoccupied**?
   1. Focusing clearly on what the narrator is saying.
   2. Absorbed with his own thoughts at the time.
   3. Questioning the narrator’s credibility.
   4. Ignoring what the narrator is telling him.

Finny never left anything alone, not when it was well enough, not when it was perfect. “Let’s go jump in the river,” he said under his breath as we went out of the sun porch. He forced **compliance** by leaning against me as we walked along, changing my direction.

1. Based on how it is used in the previous selection, what is the meaning of **compliance**?
   1. Agreement
   2. Fighting
   3. Animosity
   4. Carelessness

“Swimming in pools is screwy anyway,” he said after a long, unusual silence as we walked toward the dormitory. “The only real swimming is in the ocean.” Then in the everyday, **mediocre** tone he used when he was proposing something really outrageous, he added, “Let’s go to the beach.”

1. Based on how it is used in the previous selection, what is the meaning of **mediocre**?
   1. Indifferent
   2. Obnoxious
   3. Unfamiliar
   4. Angry

**Section III. Grammar & Mechanics.**

**Punctuation**

*Choose the best form of punctuation to fill in the blank.*

1. If I go to bed early \_\_\_\_ I may not be as tired tomorrow as I was today.
2. When I am sick, I have to go to the doctor \_\_\_\_ home remedy medicine doesn’t work for me.
3. Make sure you pack these things for your trip \_\_\_\_ a sleeping bag, hiking boots, a lantern, and a water bottle.
4. The four primary uses for a colon are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. A semicolon is used to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Capitalization**

*Correct the capitalization mistake in each sentence.*

1. *Harry Potter* is the best book series that has ever been written; author J.k. Rowling is a literary genius.
2. I grew up on a street with a really weird name: Pillow Talk court.
3. I moved to the southeast when I was young, but I originally lived in Montana.
4. My psychology professor, dr. Jarvis, is a very peculiar man; he once filmed a short movie inside a mental hospital.

**Phrases & Clauses**

18. An independent clause is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

19. A dependent clause is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

20. The difference between a clause and a phrase is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*Label each of the following as an independent clause, a dependent clause, or a phrase*.

21. In my free time I like to take naps. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

22. For your information \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

23. Under the sink \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

24. Beyond the horizon \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

25. I’m currently re-reading the Harry Potter series. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

26. Because I’m going to Disney World over Spring Break \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Section IV. Connotation & Denotation.**

27. Define Connotation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

28. Define Denotation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Classify each of the following answer choices as either “positive” or “negative.”*

***Word Positive Connotation Negative Connotation***

29. overweight \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

30. short \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

31. not smart \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

32. stinky \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

33. non-athletic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

34. clever \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Section V. Textual Analysis**.

*Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows:* J.K. Rowling

The two men appeared out of nowhere, a few yards apart in the narrow, moonlit lane. For a second they stood quite still, wands directed at each other’s chests; then, recognizing each other, they stowed their wands beneath their cloaks and started walking briskly in the same direction.

“News?” asked the taller of the two.

“The best,” replied Severus Snape.

The lane was bordered on the left by the wild, low-growing brambles, on the right by a high, neatly manicured hedge. The men’s long cloaks flapped around their ankles as they marched.

“Thought I might be late,” said Yaxley, his blunt features sliding in and out of sight as the branches of overhanging trees broke the moonlight. “It was a little trickier than I expected. But I hope he will be satisfied. You sound confident that your reception will be good?”

Snape nodded, but did not elaborate. They turned right, into a wide driveway that led off the lane. The high hedge curved with them, running off into the distance beyond the pair of impressive wrought-iron gates barring the men’s way. Neither of them broke step: In silence both raised their left arms in a kind of salute and passed straight through, as though the dark metal were smoke.

The yew hedges muffled the sound of the men’s footsteps. There was a rustle somewhere to the right: Yaxley drew his wand again, pointing it over his companion’s head, but the source of the noise proved to be nothing more than a pure-white peacock, strutting majestically along the top of the hedge.

“He always did himself well, Lucius. Peacocks…” Yaxley thrust his wand back under his cloak with a snort.

35. The mood of this passage is most accurately described as…

a. Excited

b. Mysterious

c. Unhappy

d. Joyful

36. Explain your reasoning for your answer to #35. Use evidence from the passage to support your answer.

37. Based on the conversation between the two men in the passage, we can infer that….

a. They have arrived with important news.

b. They do not know each other.

c. They are unfamiliar with their surroundings.

d. They have just come from a ball game.

38. Based on its use in the passage, the best definition for the word **elaborate** is…

a. Refuse to speak.

b. Give more detail.

c. Change the subject.

d. Acknowledge others in conversation.

39. The following sentences are an example of which literary element?

*The lane was bordered on the left by the wild, low-growing brambles, on the right by a high, neatly manicured hedge. The men’s long cloaks flapped around their ankles as they marched.*

1. Personification
2. Hyperbole
3. Imagery
4. Alliteration

40. Based on Yaxley’s last piece of dialogue, we can infer what about his feelings towards Lucius?

a. He believes Lucius likes to flaunt his wealth.

b. He is glad he is friends with Lucius.

c. He loves what Lucius has done with his yard.

d. He loathes Lucius and is not happy about being there.