

THE TELL-TALE HEART

Selection Test A**Comprehension**

Read each of the following questions. Then choose the letter of the best answer.
(6 points each)

1. What does the narrator say that madness has done to him?
 - A. made him nervous
 - B. sharpened his senses
 - C. made him hear things
 - D. turned him into a murderer
2. It is difficult to believe the narrator when he says that he
 - A. opened the creaky lantern carefully
 - B. heard the old man groan in the dark
 - C. treated the old man well before killing him
 - D. moved slowly to keep from waking the man
3. The author creates suspense by describing the sound of the old man's heartbeat as the sound of a
 - A. watch's ticking
 - B. cricket's chirping
 - C. mouse's footsteps
 - D. lantern's creaking
4. The narrator is overconfident after killing the old man when he
 - A. thinks that no one has heard the old man scream
 - B. thinks that he has hidden the old man's murder
 - C. guesses that no one will miss the old man
 - D. believes that only he can hear a heartbeat
5. Why is the narrator upset with the police at the end of the story?
 - A. His heart starts to beat very fast.
 - B. The police find the old man's body.
 - C. The police accuse him of the murder.
 - D. He thinks that they are making fun of him.

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Read each of the following questions. Then choose the letter of the best answer.
(6 points each)

6. The narrator waits a week before killing the old man because the narrator

- says that he must see the old man's eye first
- likes frightening the old man many times
- waits for the darkest night of the week
- feels guilty about taking a human life

7. How does the author create suspense in this excerpt?

“To think that there I was, opening the door, little by little, and he not even to dream of my secret deeds or thoughts. I fairly chuckled at the idea; and perhaps he heard me; for he moved on the bed suddenly, as if startled.”

- A. The narrator's laughing causes you to fear for the old man's safety.
- B. The old man's movement indicates his knowledge of the narrator's thoughts.
- C. The narrator shows great anxiety and fear of being discovered.
- D. The repeated description of the narrator's movements is vivid and dramatic.

8. The narrator has a high opinion of himself when he describes his

- A. fear of the old man's Evil Eye
- B. triumph over his feelings of insanity
- C. understanding of the old man's groan of terror
- D. ability to see in the dark of the old man's room

9. You can evaluate the narrator's state of mind as unreliable when he

- A. explains that he did not kill the old man for his money
- B. describes how slowly he moved on the night of the murder
- C. confesses in the beginning of the story that he is nervous
- D. says how sane he is but then describes what he does to the body

10. Why does the narrator begin to panic at the end of the story?

- A. The police question him closely about the old man's whereabouts.
- B. He thinks that the police can hear the old man's heartbeat.
- C. He thinks that the police can see blood on the floor of the old man's room.
- D. The police become suspicious when the narrator begins to speak quickly.

SELECTION TEST A, CONTINUED

Vocabulary

Choose the answer that best explains the meaning of each underlined word.
(6 points each)

11. What does acute mean?

- A. nervous
- B. pretty
- C. keen
- D. mad

12. To conceive of something is to

- A. think of it
- B. tell about it
- C. dream about it
- D. walk toward it

13. To vex is to

- A. plan
- B. wake
- C. annoy
- D. scream

14. What does stifled mean?

- A. evil
- B. gloomy
- C. frightened
- D. smothered

15. A crevice is a

- A. lantern
- B. crack
- C. floor
- D. room

SELECTION TEST B/C, CONTINUED

Vocabulary

Choose the answer that best explains the meaning of each underlined word.
(6 points each)

16. To move stealthily is to move

- A. confidently
- B. uncertainly
- C. cautiously
- D. steadily

17. What does audacity mean?

- A. overwhelming terror
- B. scornful mockery
- C. shameless daring
- D. fierce hostility

18. Vehemently means

- A. by good fortune
- B. with intense emotion
- C. in genuine admiration
- D. with true appreciation

19. What does derision mean?

- A. ridicule
- B. murder
- C. agony
- D. madness

20. Hypocritical means

- A. attentive
- B. confused
- C. sensitive
- D. deceptive