**Common Assessment 4- Study Guide**

**Theme**

**Remember- Plot is a lot and Theme is THE MEssage**

The **theme** in a **story** is its underlying message, or 'big idea.' In other words, what critical belief about life is the author trying to show in the writing of a novel, play, short **story** or poem? This belief, or idea, is usually universal in nature.

**Summary**

A summary is a shortened version of a longer piece of reading. Rather than restating all the ideas from the story and telling each event that occurs, a summary of a short story relates the main events without extraneous detail. Very much like the response you may give when someone asks you what a new movie is about, the summary for a story gives the general plot using anywhere from one or two sentences to a short paragraph.

**Characterization**

**Direct characterization:** the author or narrator makes direct statements about a character’s traits. The author tells us about the character’s personality to our face.

*\*\*\*TELLING*

* + *“The patient boy and quiet girl were both well mannered and did not disobey their mother.”*
  + *Explanation: The author is directly telling the audience the personality of these two children. The boy is “patient” and the girl is “quiet.”*

**Indirect characterization**: the author or narrator reveals a character’s traits through his or her actions and speech.

*\*\*\*SHOWING*

*Example- When Jane walked in the room, nobody could help but look at her stunning, gorgeous face. She commanded attention wherever she went due to her good looks.*

* + *Jane is beautiful.*

**Tone vs. Mood**

*Tone* is the author’s attitude toward a subject.

*Example-* If we were to read a description of a first date that included words and phrases like “dreaded” and “my buddies forced me to go on the date”, we could assume that the individual didn’t really enjoy the date.

*Mood* is how the work makes the reader feel.

**Figurative Language**

* **Simile- a comparison using like or as.** *She is as silly as a clown.*
* **Metaphor- a comparison not using like or as. Saying one thing is another.** *Her heart is stone*.
* **Alliteration- The same sound of a word repeats in a line.** *The* ***s****limy* ***s****lippery* ***s****nakes* ***s****kate across the* ***s****tates. The S’ sound repeats.*
* **Onomatopoeia-** **the formation of a word from a sound associated with what is named (***e.g., cuckoo, sizzle, Bang, Pow, BOOM***).**
* **Personification-** **a thing, an idea or an animal is given human attributes.** *The flowers danced in the gentle breeze.*

**Rise vs Raise**

If you ***raise*** something, it means that you elevate it - you move it up or lift it to a higher level. To go up with help.

* The government plans **to raise** the age of retirement from 65 to 67.
* If you have a question, please **raise** your hand.

If something ***rises***, it means that it elevates itself - it goes up itself. No external force is needed to lift it. But note that there is not always a physical movement; sometimes the meaning is just "to increase".

* I like **to rise** at 6am, but my husband stays in bed until 8am.
* If it doesn't stop raining, the river will **rise** and overflow.

**Subject/Verb Agreement**

***Basic Rule.*** A singular subject (*she, Bill, car*) takes a singular verb (*is, goes, shines*), whereas a plural subject takes a plural verb.

***Example:*** *The list of items is/are on the desk.*  
If you know that *list* is the subject, then you will choose *is* for the verb.

Two singular subjects connected by *or, either/or,*or*neither/nor* require a singular verb.

***Examples:***  
*My aunt or my uncle****is****arriving by train today.*  
*Neither Juan nor Carmen****is****available.*  
*Either Kiana or Casey****is****helping today with stage decorations.*

With **collective nouns** such as *group*, *jury*, *family*, *audience*, *population*, the verb might be singular or plural, depending on the writer's intent.

***Examples:***  
*All of my****family****has arrived* OR *have arrived.  
Most of the****jury****is here* OR *are here.  
A third of the****population****was not in favor* OR *were not in favor of the bill.*

*Indefinite pronouns*, like collective nouns, can be singular or plural, depending on how they are used in a sentence. Singular indefinite pronouns take a singular verb; plural indefinite pronouns take a plural verb. Here are some guidelines to follow:

* Indefinite pronouns that end in -*one* are always singular. These words include *anyone, everyone, someone*, and *one*.
* Indefinite pronouns that end in -*body* are always singular. These words include *anybody, somebody, nobody*.
* The indefinite pronouns *both, few, many, others*, and *several* are always plural

**Indefinite pronouns** refer to people, places, objects, or things without pointing to a specific one.

* The indefinite pronouns *all, any, more, most, none*, and *some* can be singular or plural, depending on how they are used.

**Prepositional Phrase**

* The subject of a sentence is **never** contained in a prepositional phrase
* Cross any prepositional phrase out in order to determine the subject.

***Example:***

* *The players on the baseball team were disappointed when they lost the championship game.*
* (The subject is players, a plural noun. **On the baseball team is the prepositional phrase with a singular object.** The verb “were” agrees with the plural subject players

**Main Idea**

* The **main idea** is the point of the paragraph. It is the most important thought about the topic.
* To figure out the **main idea**, ask yourself this question: **What is being said about the person, thing, or idea (the topic)?**

**Introductory Words**

Use commas after introductory a) clauses, b) phrases, or c) words that come before the main clause.

* 1. Common starter words for introductory clauses that should be followed by a comma include **after, although, as, because, if, since, when, while.**
  2. b. Common introductory phrases that should be followed by a comma include participial phrase (**ends in -ing or -ed**), appositive phrases, and long prepositional phrases.
  3. Common introductory words that should be followed by a comma include yes, **however, well**.

**EXAMPLES:**

* *When the snow stops falling****,****we'll shovel the driveway.*
* *Driving to school****,*** *I ran over a watermelon.*
* *The sun radiating intense heat****,****we sought shelter in the cafe*
* *Meanwhile****,*** *the cat stretched luxuriously in the sunshine.*

**Direct Address**

* **Always use a comma when directly addressing someone/something, regardless of whether the direct address is at the beginning or end of the sentence.**
* If the direct address is in the middle of a sentence, use a pair of commas to set off the direct address.
  + - Example 1: Ladies and gentlemen**,** may I have your attention? (Direct address at beginning of sentence)
* Example 2: It was a pleasure to meet you**,** Sir. (Direct address at end of sentence)
* Example 3: Thank you, my fellow grammarians**,** for remembering to use correct English. (Direct address in middle of sentence)

**Titles**

* **Use commas to set off all geographical names, items in dates (except the month and day), addresses (except the street number and name), and titles in names.**
  + - Birmingham**,**Alabama**,** gets its name from Birmingham, England.
    - July 22**,** 1959**,** was a momentous day in his life. Who lives at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington**,** DC?
    - Rachel B. Lake**,** MD, will be the principal speaker.

(When you use just the month and the year, no comma is necessary after the month or year: "The average temperatures for July 1998 are the highest on record for that month.")

**Plural Letters**

* When you’re trying to describe plural letters, use *‘s* after the letter so that it’s clearly identified as a letter, not a word. If, for instance, you write *is* instead of *i’s*, your reader will get confused between the verb and the letter i.
  + - *Mind your p****’****s and q****’****s, my dear!*
    - *Alliteration refers to the repetition of a sound, such as all the s****’****s in Sammy the snake slithered silently.*
    - *How am I supposed to write this essay if my keyboard won’t let me type any e****’****s?!*

**Compound Sentences**

* Independent Clause: A subject, Verb and Complete Thought
* Compound Sentences**: Two Independent Clause joined together with a coordinating conjunction.**
* Coordinating Conjunction: **FANBOYS- FOR, AND, BUT, NOR, BUT, OR, YET, SO**
  + - ***I studied for CA 4* , *and I played basketball.***
    - ***I ate a sandwich and taco.* No comma is need because eat tacos is not an independent clause**

**Punctuating Titles**

1. ***Capitalization*** *of titles of works* ***(books, articles, plays, stories, poems, movies, etc****.)*
2. ***Italicize*** *titles of works (****books, magazines, newspapers, movies, plays, and CDs****).*
3. *Use* ***quotation marks*** *for shorter works (****book chapters, articles, poems, and songs****).*
   * + *Examples*
       1. “The Raven” Short Poem
       2. *The Odyssey Long Poem*
       3. “The Keeper of the Keys” Chapter
       4. *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone Book*