**ELA 7 Final Exam Study Guide**

The Exam is scheduled for June 15th, at 12 PM. This exam will be written in the gymnasium. See lists posted outside of the gymnasium to check where you are seated.

The exam will consist of:

* A Two (2) hour exam
* Two sections valued at 40 marks each: Reading Section and Demand (Writing) Section
* Total Value: 20% of the full mark for the year

**Sections A and B: Reading Section 40 marks**

* There will be a total of two unseen selections in this portion of the assessment.
* The selections may include two genres from the following list:
* Poetry
* Essays/Non fiction
* Short Story/Fiction
* The texts may be linked where possible.
* Selected Responses and Constructed Responses will be present in the Reading Section.
* There will be a connecting question where students are asked to make a text-to-text, text-to-world, or text-to-self connection. Text-to-text here refers to making a connection between the exam readings.

**Section C: Demand Section 40 marks**

* Demand writing should be a multi paragraph response to a topic/prompt.
* The prompt will be given out prior to the exam and there will be a brainstorming session in the last classes before the exam.
* Demand section could link to the reading section where possible.

**Things to Review:**

The items shown here are the very basic information about a topic. You should look back through your text, notes, and year’s work in order to be sure that you understand each of the topics which may appear on the final exam.

1. **Poetry:** refer to your poetry booklet for terms and sample questions.
2. **Parts of Speech:** refer to your notes and practice sheets on adjectives, adverbs, nouns, and verbs.
3. **Short Stories:**

**Plot Outline:** For a short story, these points would include:

* + - **Introduction**, where we find out about the…
      * Characters (individuals that are the main ones the story is about. These may or may not be people, but will definitely be the ones that the story is being told about or are involved in the story)
      * Setting
        + Time (when does the story take place – day, season, year, etc?)
        + Place (where does the story occur?)
        + Circumstance (what is going on in and around the characters?)
      * Conflict (what type of conflict is taking place in the story?)
        + Internal (man vs self – an internal struggle to make decisions)
        + External (man vs nature – struggle against some outside force)
        + Interpersonal (man vs man – a struggle against another

character(s) in the story)

* + - **Rising Action**
      * After the introduction, the rising action works to build suspense, add to the characters and the conflict, and to keep the reader’s interest building.
    - **Climax**
      * Highest point of interest in the story, where the conflict gets resolved
    - **Falling action**
      * After the climax, where story begins to wrap up and finish off
    - **Resolution**
      * Tells us what happened to the main characters, story is resolved.

**Literary Terms:**

* + **Imagery** - language that appeals to the senses of sight, touch, taste, hearing and smell
  + **Character** – remember that characters are characterized according to what he or she *says* and *does*, or according to what others *say* about him or her.
  + **Conflict** – a struggle between opposing forces. There are three types: internal (people vs. themselves), external (people vs. the outside world) and interpersonal (people vs. people)
  + **Topic sentence** – the sentence that states the main point of a particular paragraph
  + **Figurative Language** – when you are asked to comment on figurative language, they are asking for *imagery*, *simile*, *metaphor*, *personification*, or *symbol* (i.e. words in which one thing stands for another)
  + **Literal meaning** – what is actually going on in a poem or story; the opposite of *figurative meaning*
  + **Metaphor** – the comparison between two things without using “*like”* or “*as”*. An *extended metaphor* is a comparison between two things that is continued throughout a text.
  + **Mood –** the feeling created in the reader by description
  + **Point of view –** the perspective from which a story is told i.e. *1st person* (‘I’) which makes the writing personal and subjective; *3rd person limited* (the narrator reports only what he sees, good for developing a plot with suspense), *3rd person omniscient* (narrator knows all actions and thoughts of characters, allows for character development – readers realize the motivations of more than one character).
  + **Setting** – the time, place and circumstances in which a novel or short story is set.
  + **Suspense** – the means by which an author keeps the reader wanting to read, wondering what will happen next. Created by *foreshadowing*, *gradual building up of detail*, or by *asking unanswered questions*.
  + **Protagonist** – the “hero” or central character of a work.
  + **Antagonist** - the enemy in a piece of literature; the person with whom the main characters are in conflict.
  + **Theme** – the main idea or purpose to a story, often to teach a lesson or make the reader think and learn from the situation and/or symbolism in the story.
  + **Tone** – the way a writer's choice of words reveals his or her attitude towards the subject, characters and reader
  + .

**Hints/Tips for answering questions in a good paragraph answer**:

* + - Read the questions carefully.
    - Re-read the question to be sure that you have answered ALL parts of the question – if it asked for an item, definition, or opinion, and asked for a reference to the work (story or visual or longer work), be sure that you have included all of the items asked for in the question.
    - Define terms. If a question asks you about a term, give the definition of the term itself so that if you are unclear with your example or reference, the reader can see that you do know the term and are trying to find an example to go with it… otherwise, they may assume that you do not understand what is being asked for in the question.
    - Write full sentences. Include part of the question in your answer.

**Hints/Tips for Writing a good Essay**

* Read the question carefully that you are being asked.
* Make some notes on what you are being asked… what things are you putting into the essay?
  + What references can you think of when thinking about your answer? Write them down in note form *before* you start to write your essay.
* Create a short outline of what you are going to write about
  + Opening Paragraph (thesis – opening statement that tells what you are answering)
  + Supporting paragraphs (additional paragraphs that explain and support your writing and give references from the text that would help support your answer) – you should have one paragraph for each supporting reference.. if you are asked for 2 references, you should have at least 2 supporting paragraphs.
  + Closing Paragraph (finishes off the essay with a concluding statement and a restatement of the answer you have been asked for.

**Answering Constructed-Response Questions**

Most exams include questions that need to be answered with a complete paragraph or two. The following are some guidelines on how to approach writing a good, solid answer to constructed-response questions.

MCj04344110000[1]**Step 1: Read the question**. It is important to read the entire question before you start to answer it. Figure out exactly *what* is being asked. Check to see if the question has more than one part. For example, look at this question:

What is the setting of the story? What does the setting do to help the reader better understand the story?

This question has two parts. First, you are asked to describe the setting of the story. Next, you are asked to explain how it helps the meaning of the story.

**Step 2: Start with a topic sentence.** All good paragraphs include a topic sentence. The topic sentence is usually the first sentence of the paragraph, and reveals what the paragraph is going to be about. So, for our question above, we might start with the following:

The setting of a story is the time the story took place, where it happened, and the circumstances that bring the characters together.

**Step 3: Focus on the different parts of the question.** The first part of the question is asking what the setting of the story is. If this question is about the story of Little Red Riding Hood, we could answer it like this:

MCj03605160000[1]*The setting of a story is the time the story took place, where it happened, and the circumstances that bring the characters together.* ***The story of Little Red Riding Hood took place in the daytime. Most of the action takes place in the woods, and Little Red Riding Hood is going through them to visit her grandmother.***

The next part asks you how setting helps the reader better understand the story. You could answer that part this way

*The setting of a story is the time the story took place, where it happened, and the circumstances that bring the characters together. The story of Little Red Riding Hood takes place in the daytime. Most of the action takes place in the woods, and Little Red Riding Hood is going through them to visit her grandmother.* ***This setting helps the reader understand where Red Riding Hood is going, and why she is going there. Also, most of us are familiar with the woods, so we can picture the setting in our minds.***

**Step 4: Bringing it all to a conclusion:** Finally, you need to write a sentence that sums everything up, in other words, a concluding sentence.

MCj01163620000[1]*The setting of a story is the time the story took place, where it happened, and the circumstances that bring the characters together. The story of Little Red Riding Hood took place in the daytime. Most of the action takes place in the woods, and Little Red Riding Hood is going through them to visit her grandmother.**This setting helps the reader understand where Red Riding Hood is going, and why she is going there. Also, most of us are familiar with the woods, so we can picture the setting in our minds.* ***Setting serves a very important part in helping the reader understand and enjoy the story.***