

Name: _____ Core: ____“The Tell-Tale Heart” test



1. “It is impossible to say how first the idea entered my brain; but once conceived, it haunted me day and night.”

Based on the passage, the word **conceived** means:

- A. neglected
- B. misunderstood
- C. believed
- D. not believe

2. An example of irony found in the story is:

- A. “I loved the old man”...“I was never kinder to the old man than during the whole week before I killed him.”
- B. “True!--Nervous--very, very dreadfully nervous I had been and am!”
- C. “I saw it with perfect distinctness--all a dull blue, with a hideous veil over it that chilled the very marrow in my bones...”

3. Which event in the plot is an example of the rising action?

- A. He takes three planks from the flooring of the chamber, and puts the corpse underneath the floorboards.
- B. He kills the old man by suffocation.
- C. He admits to the murder and shouts out, “I admit the deed!-- tear up the planks!-- here, here!”
- D. He watches the old man for seven nights at midnight.

4. Which event in the plot is an example of the falling action?

- A. He takes three planks from the flooring of the chamber, and puts the corpse underneath the floorboards.
- B. He kills the old man by suffocation.
- C. He admits to the murder and shouts out, “I admit the deed!-- tear up the planks!-- here, here!”
- D. He watches the old man for seven nights at midnight.

5. Which two events in the plot are examples of climax in the story?

- A. He takes three planks from the flooring of the chamber, and puts the corpse underneath the floorboards.
- B. He kills the old man by suffocation.

- C. He admits to the murder and shouts out, "I admit the deed!-- tear up the planks!-- here, here!"
- D. He watches the old man for seven nights at midnight.

6. Which line(s) from the narrator represent a positive tone?

- A. "I smiled, -- for what had I to fear?"
- B. "No doubt I now grew very pale..."
- C. "What could I do? I foamed- I raved- I swore."
- D. "I could bear those hypocritical smiles no longer! I felt that I must scream or die!"

7. Which line(s) from the narrator represent a nervous tone?

- A. "I smiled, -- for what had I to fear?"
- B. "No doubt I now grew very pale..."
- C. "I gasped for breath--"
- D. "I paced the floor to and fro with heavy strides..."

Directions: Use the passage below to answer questions 8, 9, and 10.

"If you still think me mad, you will think so no longer when I describe the wise precautions I took for the concealment of the body. The night approached its end, and I worked hastily, but in silence. First of all I dismembered the corpse. I cut off the head and the arms and the legs."

8. The word precaution means:

- A. careless
- B. disregard
- C. care
- D. ignorance

9. The word dismember means:

- A. repair
- B. put together
- C. connect
- D. take apart

10. How does the narrator feel in this passage?

- A. skillfull
- B. foolish
- C. insane
- D. clever

11. "But even yet I refrained and kept still. I scarcely breathed. I held the lantern motionless."

What is the mood of this passage?

- A. suspenseful
- B. unexciting
- C. undramatic
- D. comedic

12. "A shriek had been heard by a neighbor during the night: suspicion of foul play had been aroused; information had been lodged at the police office, and they (the officers) had been deputed to search the premises."

Which question is answered in this passage?

- A. Where was the body hidden?
- B. What caused the police to investigate?
- C. How was the man killed?
- D. Why was the man killed?

13. "...the noise arose over all and continually increased. It grew louder-louder-louder! And still the men chatted pleasantly, and smiled. Was it possible they heard not?--no, no! They heard!-they suspected!-they knew!-they were making a mockery of my horror!-this I thought, and this I think. But anything was better than this agony! Anything was more tolerable than this ridicule! I could bear those hypocritical smiles no longer! I felt that I must scream or die!"

Why does the narrator admit to the murder as described in the passage above?

- A. He believes that the police can hear the old man's beating heart.
- B. He feels if he doesn't tell the police, they will bring him to the station for further questioning.
- C. He thinks the police agree with the crime, or they wouldn't be smiling.
- D. He is looking forward to going to prison.