

國立臺灣大學九十四學年度轉學生入學考試試題

科目：文學作品讀法

題號：58

共 2 頁之第 / 頁

Answer **all** of the following questions. Support your answers with details from the passages. While you need not follow the order of the questions, remember to write the **question number** of the question you answer.

I. Below is the opening of a short story.

When Blake stepped out of the elevator, he saw her. A few people, mostly men waiting for girls, stood in the lobby watching the elevator doors. She was among them. As he saw her, her face took on a look of such loathing and purpose that he realized she had been waiting for him. He did not approach her. She had no legitimate business with him. They had nothing to say. He turned and walked toward the glass doors at the end of the lobby, feeling that faint guilt and bewilderment we experience when we bypass some old friend or classmate who seems threadbare, or sick, or miserable in some other way.

1. Discuss the *point of view* of the story. (10%)
2. Analyze the *character* of Blake. (10%)

II. Answer the questions in response to the ending of the short story "Happy Endings."

You'll have to face it, the endings are the same however you slice it. Don't be deluded by any other endings, they're all fake...

The only authentic ending is the one provided here:

John and Mary die. John and Mary die. John and Mary die. So much for endings. Beginnings are always more fun. True connoisseurs, however, are known to favor the stretch in between, since it's the hardest to do anything with.

That's all that can be said for plots, which anyway are just one thing after another, a what and a what and a what.

Now try How and Why.

3. What is the *plot*? (15%)
4. What is *fiction*? (15%)

III. This epitaph published in 1925 was written by an African-American poetess.

**For A Lady I Know**

She even thinks that up in heaven  
Her class lies late and snores,  
While poor black cherubs rise at seven  
To do celestial chores.

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5. What is the *theme* of the poem? (5%)
6. How would you characterize the *tone* of this poem? (10%)

IV. The title of Denise Levertov's poem suggests its theme.

**Leaving Forever**

He says the waves in the ship's wake  
are like stones rolling away.  
I don't see it that way.  
But I see the mountain turning,  
turning away its face as the ship  
takes us away.

7. Which two *figures of speech* are used in this poem? How are they different from each other? (5%)
8. What do you understand to be the man's feelings about leaving forever? How does the speaker feel? (10%)

V. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

When a man rides a long time through wild regions he feels the desire for a city. Finally he comes to Isidora, a city where the buildings have spiral staircases encrusted with spiral seashells, where perfect telescopes and violins are made, where the foreigner hesitating between two women always encounters a third, where cockfights degenerate into bloody brawls among the bettors. He was thinking of all these things when he desired a city. Isidora, therefore, is the city of his dreams: with one difference. The dreamed-of city contained him as a young man; he arrives at Isidora in his old age. In the square there is the wall where the old men sit and watch the young go by; he is seated in a row with them. Desires are already memory.

9. Discuss the *images* in this passage. (10%)
10. What is the city of Isidora a *symbol* of? (10%)

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