

Answer all of the following questions. 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 beginning of a short story written by Edgar Allan Poe:

True!—nervous—very, very dreadfully nervous I had been and am; but why will you say that I am mad? The disease had sharpened my senses—not destroyed—not dulled them. Above all was the sense of hearing acute. I heard all things in the heaven and in the earth. I heard many things in hell. How, then, am I mad? Hearken! and observe how healthily—how calmly I can tell you the whole story.

1. Analyze the **point of view** of the story. (10%)
2. What kind of story are we supposed to hear from the **narrator**? Explain your answer. (10%)

II. The short stories of Ernest Hemingway are known for their plain, simple, and clear style.

The hills across the valley of the Ebro were long and white. On this side there was no shade and no trees and the station was between two lines of rails in the sun. Close against the side of the station there was the warm shadow of the building and a curtain, made of bamboo beads, hung across the open door into the bar, to keep out flies. The American and the girl with him sat at a table in the shade, outside the building. It was very hot and the express from Barcelona would come in forty minutes. It stopped at this junction for two minutes and went on to Madrid.

3. Discuss the **setting** described in this passage. (10%)
4. What is the **theme** suggested by the setting? (10%)

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III. Read the poem by Langston Hughes and answer the question that follows:

Homecoming

I went back in the alley
And I opened up my door.
All her clothes was gone:
She wasn't home no more.

I pulled back the covers,
I made down the bed.
A whole lot of room
Was the only thing I had.

5. What does the speaker feel about this "homecoming"? What is his **tone**?
Exactly what in the poem makes his tone clear? (20%)

IV. This is a poem written by Robert Frost in the early 1920s:

Fire and Ice

Some say the world will end in fire,
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favor fire.
But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.

6. What does Robert Frost probably refer to in the first two lines? What is the **theme** of the poem? (10%)

7. What **connotations** of the words *fire* and *ice* contribute to our understanding of the poem? (10%)

V. 8. Discuss a short story or a poem that you have read. Why do you like it or What impresses you most about it? (20%)

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