

**8<sup>th</sup> grade English**  
**Final Exam Study Guide**



Section I: Passage Analysis

Directions: Carefully read the following passage by William Saroyan. Then choose the *best* answer to each question. (Numbers to the left indicate lines of text.)

## The Hummingbird That Lived Through Winter

There was a hummingbird once which in the wintertime did not leave our neighborhood in Fresno, California.

I'll tell you about it.

5 Across the street lived old Dikran, who was almost blind. He was past eighty and his wife was only a few years younger. They had a little house that was as neat inside as it was ordinary  
10 outside—except for old Dikran's garden, which was the best thing of its kind in the world. Plants, bushes, trees—all strong, in sweet black moist earth whose guardian was old Dikran. All  
15 things from the sky loved this spot in our poor neighborhood, and old Dikran loved *them*.

One freezing Sunday, in the dead of winter, as I came home from Sunday  
20 School I saw old Dikran standing in the middle of the street trying to distinguish what was in his hand. Instead of going into our house to the fire, as I had wanted to do, I stood on the steps of the  
25 front porch and watched the old man. He would turn around and look upward at his trees and then back to the palm of his hand. He stood in the street at least two minutes and then at last he  
30 came to me. He held his hand out, and in Armenian he said, "What is this in my hand?"

I looked.

"It is a hummingbird," I said half in  
35 English and half in Armenian.

Hummingbird I said in English because I didn't know its name in Armenian.

"What is that?" old Dikran asked.

"The little bird," I said. "You know.

10 The one that comes in the summer and stands in the air and then shoots away. The one with the wings that beat so fast you can't see them. It's in your hand. It's dying."

15 "Come with me," the old man said. "I can't see, and the wife's at church. I can feel its heart beating. Is it in a bad way? Look again, once."

I looked again. It was a sad thing to  
20 behold. The wonderful little creature of summertime in the big rough hand of the old peasant. Here it was in the cold of winter, absolutely helpless and pathetic, not suspended in a shaft of summer  
25 light, not the most alive thing in the world, but the most helpless and heartbreaking.

"It's dying," I said.

The old man lifted his hand to his  
30 mouth and blew warm breath on the little thing in his hand which he could not even see. "Stay now," he said in Armenian. "It is not long till summer. Stay, swift and lovely."

35 We went into the kitchen of his little house, and while he blew warm breath on the bird he told me what to do.

"Put a tablespoon of honey over the  
40 gas fire and pour it into my hand, but be sure it is not too hot."

This was done.

After a moment the hummingbird began to show signs of fresh life. The warmth of the room, the vapor of the warm honey—and, well, the will and love of the old man. Soon the old man could feel the change in his hand, and after a moment or two the hummingbird began to take little dabs of the honey.

"It will live," the old man announced. "Stay and watch."

The transformation was incredible. The old man kept his hand generously open, and I expected the helpless bird to shoot upward out of his hand, suspend itself in space, and scare the life out of me—which is exactly what happened. The new life of the little bird was magnificent. It spun about in the little kitchen, going to the window, coming back to the heat, suspending, circling as if it were summertime and it had never felt better in its whole life.

The old man sat on the plain chair, blind but attentive. He listened carefully and tried to see, but of course he couldn't. He kept asking about the bird, how it seemed to be, whether it showed signs of weakening again, what its spirit was, and whether or not it appeared to be restless; and I kept describing the bird to him.

When the bird was restless and

wanted to go, the old man said, "Open the window and let it go."

"Will it live?" I asked.

"It is alive now and wants to go," he said. "Open the window."

I opened the window, the hummingbird stirred about here and there, feeling the cold from the outside, suspended itself in the area of the open window, stirring this way and that, and then it was gone.

"Close the window," the old man said.

We talked for a minute or two and then I went home.

The old man claimed the hummingbird lived through that winter, but I never knew for sure. I saw hummingbirds again when summer came, but I couldn't tell one from the other.

One day in the summer I asked the old man.

"Did it live?"

"The little bird?" he said.

"Yes," I said. "That we gave the honey to. You remember. The little bird that was dying in the winter. Did it live?"

"Look about you," the old man said.

"Do you see the bird?"

"I see *hummingbirds*," I said.

"Each of them is our bird," the old man said. "Each of them, each of them," he said swiftly and gently.

*The Hummingbird that Lived Through Winter* from *My Kind of Crazy Wonderful People: Seventeen Stories and a Play* by William Saroyan. Copyright 1944 and renewed 1972 by William Saroyan. Reproduced by permission of Harcourt, Inc.

1. What pair of adjectives best describes the tone of the second paragraph (line 4)?
  - A. casual and friendly
  - B. formal and cheerful
  - C. simple and sad
  - D. helpful but uncaring
  
2. What does the narrator mean in lines 14-16 when he writes, "All things from the sky loved this spot in our poor neighborhood"?
  - A. Everything that fell on the ground there stayed.
  - B. It always seemed sunnier there.
  - C. The garden got more rain than did the other spots in the neighborhood.
  - D. There were always many flying creatures in the garden.
  
3. Why does Dikran not know what is in his hand?
  - A. He does not like birds.
  - B. He cannot see.
  - C. There are no hummingbirds in Armenia.
  - D. A hummingbird has never before visited his garden.
  
4. The phrase "not suspended in a shaft of summer light" (lines 54-55) uses all of these techniques EXCEPT
  - A. alliteration
  - B. description
  - C. imagery
  - D. personification
  
5. Lines 73-76 make up a sentence fragment that lists
  - A. items that are being compared
  - B. reasons for the bird's revival
  - C. details that describe the story's mood
  - D. the actions of the old man, in order
  
6. When the old man asks "what its spirit was" in lines 100-101, what is he asking the narrator?
  - A. Whether or not the bird will live
  - B. Whether the bird wants more honey
  - C. How the bird appears to feel
  - D. Where it is that the bird seems injured
  
7. Throughout the selection, what is the concern of the narrator?
  - A. He wants to know what the best way of caring for a sick bird is.
  - B. He wants to know whether the bird will live.
  - C. He wants to make sure the bird gets to eat a little.
  - D. He is worried about his neighbor's health.
  
8. Why does Dikran let the bird go?
  - A. He is afraid the bird will injure itself flying into the window.
  - B. He wants to test how healthy the bird is.
  - C. His wife will not want to find a bird in the house.
  - D. He knows he has done all he can for the bird.

**Section: Literary Elements & Devices**

**Directions: Define the following terms**

1. Alliteration
2. Allusion
3. Anecdote
4. Antagonist
5. Characterization
6. Climax
7. Complicating Incident
8. Conflict
9. First Person Point of View
10. Flashback
11. Foreshadowing
12. Hyperbole
13. Irony
14. Metaphor
15. Mood
16. Onomatopoeia
17. Personification
18. Protagonist
19. Repetition
20. Sarcasm
21. Setting
22. Simile
23. Symbolism
24. Theme
25. Third Person Limited Point of View
26. Third Person Omniscient Point of View
27. Tone

**Directions: Read the following passages and identify the point of view from which each narrator is speaking. Circle the letter of your answer to each item.**

1. At daylight, I was half-wakened by the sound of chopping. Again it was so even that I went back to sleep. When I left my bed, the boy had come and gone. A stack of kindling was neat against the cabin wall.  
a. First Person      b. Third Person Limited      c. Third Person Omniscient
2. Princess was especially fond of Judy, who frequently took her out and taught her tricks. At first, Don Osvaldo and Dona Nereida were worried about letting Judy take Princess for walks. But several months had gone by and Judy and the dog always returned safe and sound.  
a. First Person      b. Third Person Limited      c. Third Person Omniscient
3. He realized that he was no longer feeling good; that he was sick and giddy. His head kept falling forward on to his chest because his neck seemed no longer to have any strength. But he knew that he was flying the Spitfire. He could feel the handle of the stick between the fingers of his right hand.  
a. First Person      b. Third Person Limited      c. Third Person Omniscient

**Directions: Read the following passages and test what you know about techniques writers use to reveal characterization of people in biographies and stories. Circle the letter of your answer to each item.**

Passage 1:

(1) Greg is at home on the rink. (2) He obviously adores skating from the minute he is on the ice until he leaves it. (3) Moving with long, swift glides, he travels the entire rink in seconds. (4) When he spins, his slim body turns like a whirling candy cane. (5) He races, circles, and stops suddenly on the shimmering ice he loves.

1. The main technique of characterization in the passage is
  - a. describing the character's actions.
  - b. describing the character's appearance.
  - c. telling how others react to the character.
2. The best proof that Greg loves skating is found in
  - a. Sentences 1, 2, and 5
  - b. Sentences 2, 3, and 5
  - c. Sentences 3, 4, and 5

Passage 2:

Quarterback Bob Nelson's voice was cold and decisive as he barked the signals. The opposing team was ahead by seven points; it was fourth down, and only seconds to play. Suddenly Bob grinned. "Come on, guys!" he shouted. "We can do it! We're the greatest, aren't we?" And we did.

3. The main technique of characterization in the passage is
  - a. describing the character's appearance.
  - b. revealing the character's thoughts.
  - c. revealing the character's words.
4. The qualities the character reveals in the dialogue at the end of the passage are
  - a. leadership and sportsmanship even when losing.
  - b. good in a crisis and well-liked by his teammates.
  - c. barking orders and getting the team to follow him.

Passage 3:

Bernhard Langher, the 1985 Masters Gold Champion, had the "yips" (shaking hands when putting) when he was just out of his teens. Although a famous golfer in Europe, he was one of the worst putters. Players who were paired with him would turn their heads when he bent over a putt as they would avoid a leper, afraid that whatever he had was contagious, as though they would be struck blind if they were caught watching.

5. The main technique of characterization in the passage is
  - a. describing the character's actions.
  - b. describing the reactions of others to the character.
  - c. explaining the character's thoughts.
6. The first sentence of the passage suggests that to be successful the character
  - a. must take away the fears others had of him.
  - b. choose another sport to excel in.
  - c. overcome an obstacle.



### Section III: Grammar and Usage

**Directions:** Identify the use of the noun underlined in each sentence as a subject, direct object, indirect object, object of the preposition, or predicate nominative.

1. I lent Michael my cell phone because he left his in the car.
  - A. Subject
  - B. Indirect object
  - C. Object of the preposition
  - D. Predicate nominative
  
2. I lent Michael my cell phone because he left his in his car.
  - A. Subject
  - B. Direct object
  - C. Object of the preposition
  - D. Predicate nominative
  
3. After seeing the scary movie, Jean couldn't sleep for weeks.
  - A. Subject
  - B. Indirect object
  - C. Object of the preposition
  - D. Predicate nominative
  
4. Do the exercises on the following pages.
  - A. Subject
  - B. Direct object
  - C. Object of the preposition
  - D. Predicate nominative
  
5. In the not so distant future, she will become a successful lawyer.
  - A. Subject
  - B. Indirect object
  - C. Object of the preposition
  - D. Predicate nominative

**Directions:** Look at the underlined pronoun in each sentence. Decide which sentence uses the pronoun **INCORRECTLY**. Darken the letter of your answer. If there is no error in pronoun usage, darken D.

1.
  - A. I made an appointment for her and you.
  - B. Few raccoons are as gentle as him.
  - C. There are some seats behind Luisa and us actors.
  - D. No errors

2. A. To whom do I send the invitation?  
 B. Who wants to go to the soccer match?  
 C. My teacher gave a bad grade to who?  
 D. No errors
  
3. A. I was near you and them on the rollercoaster.  
 B. Just between you and I, I think our chances are good.  
 C. The president awarded Mary and him the Medal of Freedom.  
 D. No errors
  
4. A. Everyone must show their pictures at Sal's party on Saturday.  
 B. Students need to study their notes for the final exam.  
 C. Someone dropped his or her book on the floor.  
 D. No errors
  
5. A. Jonathan and me played in a baseball tournament last weekend.  
 B. The greatest candidates were Suzie and he.  
 C. Aunt Suzie called them on the telephone last night.  
 D. No errors
  
6. A. Is this ball his or hers?  
 B. I believe yours is in the field.  
 C. Your friends and mine are staying the weekend?  
 D. No errors
  
7. A. A few of the fans parked their cars in the stadium parking lot.  
 B. Each girl will perform their dance to the audience.  
 C. The English teachers enjoyed teaching their lessons to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.  
 D. No errors

Directions: Choose the sentence that **MOST CLEARLY** follows the structure of the original.

1. After we won the game, our coach took us to Rita's.
  - A. Before going to bed, I always brush my teeth.
  - B. When the class finished the project, they were very relieved.
  - C. Michael wanted to cut the lawn, and Meredith chose to clean the garage.
  
2. Andy ate his lunch quickly and went fishing.
  - A. As Jim washed his car, Oscar relaxed under the big tree.
  - B. Kevin and Dwight went to the ballgame last night.
  - C. Ian greeted people at the front door and answered phones.
  
3. *The Office* is my favorite show, and I watch it every Thursday night.
  - A. Michael is the boss, but Dwight thinks he is.
  - B. Although Dwight likes Angela, he is not dating her.

- C. Kevin does accounting; Creed works in Customer Service.
4. On very hot days after school, Greg would jump in his pool.
    - A. From the tree in our backyard, we hung an inviting hammock.
    - B. Because Frank couldn't type, Denise did most of the work.
    - C. After watching Anne and Alison working so hard, Frankie became very tired.
  5. The girls stayed focused; the job was completed on time.
    - A. Tony got into trouble because he was a wise guy.
    - B. Sonny ran the business, and Michael paid the bills.
    - C. The family achieved much success; everyone respected their work.

Directions: Identify the structure of each sentence.

1. Sylvia borrowed a book which belonged to the librarian.
  - A. simple
  - B. compound
  - C. complex
2. After the talent competition, I left for camp.
  - A. simple
  - B. compound
  - C. complex
3. After I left for school in the morning, I called my sister to say hello.
  - A. simple
  - B. compound
  - C. complex
4. The fox chased the chickens but was unsuccessful in catching one.
  - A. simple
  - B. compound
  - C. complex
5. Michael paid his bills, watched television, and went to bed.
  - A. simple
  - B. compound
  - C. complex
6. I ate ice cream; Sally completed her math problems.
  - A. simple
  - B. compound
  - C. complex

Directions: Read the following paragraph carefully before you choose your answers.

(1) Last year my grandmother came to stay with us from the middle of December until my brother's birthday in January. (2) While we were getting out the holiday decorations, Mom and Grandma told us all about how people used to make their own decorations. (3) Mom said that she remembered making beautiful decorations so we decided to try making some of our own. (4) My dad, my brother, and I drove out to the nearby woods to gather pine cones. (5) Surprise for us! (6) We couldn't find a single one, so we drove home empty handed.

1. In the above paragraph, which number identifies a simple sentence?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 5

2. Which number identifies a compound sentence?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 6

3. Which number identifies a complex sentence?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

4. Which number identifies a sentence fragment?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 5
- D. 6

5. Which number identifies a run-on sentence?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 5

**Directions:** Look in the underlined part of each sentence for errors in usage, punctuation, grammar, capitalization, or sentence construction. Then choose the one revision that corrects the sentence error(s). If the original sentence contains no errors, select No Change.

1. Everyone that I talked to were invited to the party.
  - a. are invited to the party.
  - b. was invited to the party.
  - c. No Change
  
2. Many of the students who are in English right now are worried about the final exam.
  - a. is in English right now are worried about the final exam.
  - b. are in English right now is worried about the final exam.
  - c. is in English right now is worried about the final exam.
  - d. No Change
  
3. If your going tomorrow, their going to be very excited.
  - a. If you're going tomorrow, there going to be very excited.
  - b. If your going tomorrow, they're going to be very excited.
  - c. If you're going tomorrow, they're going to be very excited.
  - d. No Change.
  
4. I know I did good on the essay because I got through it quickly.
  - a. I know I did well on the essay because I got through it quickly.
  - b. I know I did well on the essay because I got threw it quickly.
  - c. I know I did good on the essay because I got threw it quick.
  - d. No Change.
  
5. Who's jobs were affected by the poor economy?
  - a. Whose jobs were effected
  - b. Whose jobs were affected
  - c. Who's jobs were effected
  - d. No change
  
6. Julie likes swimming, to fish, and to go hiking.
  - a. Julie likes to swim, to fish, and to go hiking.
  - b. Julie likes to swim, to fish, and hiking.
  - c. Julie likes swimming, fishing, and hiking.
  - d. No change.



3<sup>rd</sup> grade English  
Sentence Imitation

Directions: Choose the sentence that **MOST CLEARLY** follows the structure of the original.

1. **Maria pitched well but lost the game.**
  - a. Jonathan studied yet failed the test.
  - b. Bruce watered the flower daily, but it didn't grow.
  - c. Alison worked very hard although she came in last place.
  
2. **In the garden by the tomato plant, the ground hog ate all of the parsley.**
  - a. After Sheila hit the ball to the outfield, she ran to third base.
  - b. Beside the tree near the garage, the dog dug a hole under the fence.
  - c. Because Jim jumped into the river, he had a lot of mud on his clothes.
  
3. **Although she lost the game, Maria pitched well.**
  - a. After studying Saturday, Sandra read quietly.
  - b. While we ate our lunch, the cat watched expectantly.
  - c. The children shout with glee after the rain stops.
  
4. ***A Separate Peace* which we read in 8<sup>th</sup> grade is an awesome novel.**
  - a. The rules that we went over in the meeting will not be changed.
  - b. The coat and shoes belong in the closet.
  - c. Who plays third base for the team is not important.
  
5. **Maria pitched well, but she lost the game.**
  - a. As Mark opened the door, birds flew out.
  - b. Mitch needed help; he stayed after school.
  - c. Mickey ran quickly, for he could keep the pace.
  
6. **Maria pitched well; she lost the game.**
  - a. Mr. Thomas traveled to New York; he enjoyed the family reunion.
  - b. John saw his friend in a crowd at the movies, but his friend did not see him there.
  - c. Wendy planted a vegetable garden in the backyard; however, the animals ate her plants.
  
7. **Maria pitched well; however, she lost the game.**
  - a. Dad cleaned the kitchen; meanwhile, my brother and I decorated the living room.
  - b. Chloe studied hard; she received an A.
  - c. Dominick practiced often because the coach didn't put him on the team.





8<sup>th</sup> grade English  
Sentence Imitation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Write a sentence which matches the sentence structure provided.

1. As she watched the fish and snails, she thought about a career in marine biology.
2. Texas is quite big, but Alaska is bigger.
3. I looked at a map, and then I showed Dana my home state.
4. First, she learned about research ships and equipment when she looked at the website.
5. Suddenly, the dog bounded into the tent, and within seconds the tent collapsed on top of us.
6. In the middle of the night, I awoke to a strange sound; I immediately became frightened.
7. I was alone in the tent, for the dog had left.
8. Some students who had gone to the center last year had snorkeled around the tide pools.

