Elements of Fiction Test

Name ___________________________ Date __________________

**Literary Analysis: Plot, Conflict, and Narrative Structure**

1. What is the term for the part of a story that provides background information about main characters and their situation?
   A. exposition
   B. flashback
   C. falling action
   D. resolution

2. Which of these choices is the best definition of the climax of a story?
   A. the point at which the conflict is introduced
   B. the point at which new complications to the conflict are introduced
   C. the point of highest tension or suspense
   D. the point at which all the loose ends of a plot are tied together

3. Which of these is a good example of an internal conflict?
   A. A knight struggles to defeat a fire-breathing dragon.
   B. A lawyer struggles to prove the innocence of her client.
   C. A farmer struggles to bring his crops through a bad drought.
   D. A student struggles with a decision about whether to turn in a friend for cheating.

4. In what part of the story are problems worked out so that the conflict is settled?
   A. exposition
   B. rising action
   C. foreshadowing
   D. resolution

5. What does foreshadowing usually help create?
   A. suspense
   B. flashbacks
   C. external conflict
   D. internal conflict
Read this selection from a short story. Then, answer the questions that follow.

A cold wind raked across the barren landscape and night was beginning to set in when we reached our final destination. The horses’ hooves beat a steady drum as the carriage proceeded up the sweeping length of the driveway. At last we came to a stop in front of a crumbling mansion. One light shone brightly near an upper window, but the rest of the house was in inky darkness.

11.
Which phrase best describes the mood of the selection?
A. sad and mournful
B. bleak and eerie
C. angry and resentful
D. charming and whimsical

12.
Which of these images from the selection most clearly contributes to the mood?
A. the cold wind raking across the landscape
B. the steady drum of the horses’ hooves
C. the sweeping length of the driveway
D. the light shining in an upper window

13.
Which of these groups of words from the selection most clearly contribute to the mood?
A. cold, final, and steady
B. sweeping, brightly, and inky
C. final, crumbling, and brightly
D. barren, crumbling, and inky

character

Read this selection from a nonfiction narrative. Then, answer the questions that follow.

Alden, Jones, and Baker have spent months searching deep in a tropical jungle for a city of gold. The year is 1750, and, although the men have a map, it is very primitive and unreliable. Finally, Alden says, “It is time we came to our senses and admit that there is no city of gold. I am giving up this pointless search and returning to civilization.” Jones and Baker decide to continue, but Alden leaves the adventure behind and goes home.

14.
Which character or characters are dynamic?
A. all three because they are on an adventure
B. Alden, because he changes his mind about the search and goes home
C. Jones and Baker, because they want to continue searching for the city of gold
D. none of the men, because they should not have gone on their search in the first place