**Midterm Exam Study Guide**

**8th Grade ELA**

(60 points)

Directions: Using your own paper, answer each question thoroughly. You must either write the question OR restate the question. (You will lose 1 point for each answer that is not restated or the question isn’t written out and then answered) You will also lose points for “poor effort” answers. DO YOUR BEST!!

Selection 1: “The Death of a Bee”

1. What can you infer about the meaning of the poem based on its title?
2. Read the poem and write key words and phrases that help you understand the central idea of the selection.
3. Summarize “The Death of a Bee”. Your summary must be in paragraph form. (2 paragraphs)
4. Explain the use of the word “biography” in the first stanza of the poem.
5. Describe the mood (atmosphere or feeling the poem creates) of “The Death of a Bee” and provide textual evidence to support your claim. Explain how the textual evidence illustrates the mood of the poem.
6. Reread stanzas 4 and 5 and explain the significance of the boy’s “stung” ankle and “his brief tears” and how both instances relate to the poem’s theme or central idea.
7. How does the author feel about our (human) impact on wildlife? Support your claim with textual evidence from the selection. Do you agree or disagree? Explain why.
8. Explain the connection between a flower and a bee. How the author describes this relationship in the poem? Use textual evidence to support your answer.

Selection 2: “The Bees Swarming”

1. Read the poem and underline key words and phrases that help you understand the central message of the selection. In your own words, summarize the poem. (2 paragraphs)
2. Find all the sensory language in the poem. Create a chart like the model below. Write the sensory words under the appropriate category.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sight | Hearing | Smell | Taste | Touch |
|  |  |  |  |  |

1. How do the beemen calm the swarming bees? Use textual evidence to support your answer.
2. Compare the structures of the two selections “The Death of a Bee” and “The Bees Swarming” and analyze the differences between the two. Explain how the structures emphasize the central idea of each poem.

Selection 3: “Kissing the Bee”

1. Summarize “Kissing the Bee”. Provide all important details, including characters’ names. Your summary must be in paragraph form. (2 paragraphs)
2. Based on the selection, what can you infer about the character Dana? Use at least 2 adjectives and support your answer with evidence from the text.
3. How would you describe the character Emil and why? Support your answer with textual evidence.
4. How does Mitch feel about honey from the honey comb compared to that of honey from a restaurant or store? Support your answer with textual evidence.
5. What is a central theme (main idea) of the story? Support your answer with evidence from the text.
6. Compare “Death of a Bee” to “Kissing the Bee”. How do they reflect the same concepts (ideas)? Support your answer with textual evidence.
7. Compare the beekeepers in “Kissing the Bee” and “The Bees Swarming.”
8. In “Kissing the Bee”, “Bees Swarming”, and “Death of a Bee”, compare how each speaker/author does addresses the relationship between humans and bees?

Selection 4: “Ditch the Dollar Bill and Live with Change”

1. Write a clear summary of “Ditch the Dollar Bill and Live with Change”. Include all the important details. (2 paragraphs)
2. What is the main idea of “Ditch the Dollar Bill and Live with Change”? Support your answer with textual evidence.
3. Why does the author compare the use of dollar coins to that of winning the power ball?
4. What does the author hope to accomplish with this piece? Support your answer with textual evidence.
5. The authors states: “the Government Accountability Office estimates that switching to dollar coins would incur costs at first, but save the government $5.5 billion over 30 years.”
6. What does this statement mean?
7. Why does the author use this information in his piece?
8. Compare “Save the Dollar Bill” to “Ditch the Dollar Bill and Live with Change”. Answer the following:
9. What is the goal of each author? What do they want? Support your answer with textual evidence.
10. Which author makes a better argument? Explain why and support your answer with textual evidence.

Selection 5: “Save the Dollar Bill”

1. Summarize “Save the Dollar Bill”. Be sure to include all key details mentioned in the passage. (2 paragraphs)
2. What is the overall author’s purpose of “Save the Dollar Bill”? Support your answer with textual evidence.
3. After gather information from selections 4 and 5, create a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the pros and cons of eliminating the dollar bill.
4. The text states, “eliminating the dollar bill and replacing it with dollar coin… is one of the worst ideas to come from Washington, D.C., in a long time.” Use textual evidence (and your Venn Diagram) to explain why the author feels this way.