

Grade 8 Pre-Test for Reading Literature

* EDITABLE! *

86 QUESTIONS

Short Story of the Month
Pre-Assessment

Reading Literature

Pre-Assessment Part 1: Content Knowledge

Read each definition. Write the correct term on the line provided.

plot	script	exposition	structural irony	stage directions
theme	status	archetype	rising action	and rhymes
allusion	anecdote	antagonist	first person	third person omniscient
flashback	resolution	protagonist	dynamic irony	
metaphor	symbolism	alliteration	realistic fiction	complete rhymes
synonym	metonymy	synecdoche	science fiction	dynamic character
simile	hyperbole	static character	historical fiction	
imagery	consonance	internal rhymes	partial rhymes	
line	consonant	falling action	third person limited	
verse	fantasy	knowing-seeing	indirect characterization	
rhyme	satire	verbal irony	direct characterization	

1. What happens in a story; the chain of events that make up a story

2. A comparison that uses the words like or as

3. The end of the story where the main conflict is resolved

4. A character who undergoes a deep change from within in a story

5. Adjectives that describe a character on the inside

6. A point of view where the narrator knows all

7. Using an object or word to represent an abstract idea

8. A single line of a poem

9. The attitude of the writer or speaker

10. An exaggeration that cannot possibly be true

11. Lines or clues that suggest what may happen later in a story

12. The author shows you what a character is like through his thoughts, feelings, choices, words, and actions

13. The atmosphere or feeling created by a work of literature

14. A character that remains the same throughout the story

15. The repetition of vowel sounds among words

16. A major section of a play, usually made up of several scenes

17. A genre that is not in the past and may include real people, places, or significant events from history

18. Vivid writing that appeals to the senses

19. The anxiety a reader feels about what may happen next in a story

20. A point of view in which the narrator is a person in the story

21. The author interrupts the plot to include an event of earlier time

22. Events that follow the climax and lead to the resolution

23. Descriptions or directions in the script that tell how the play is performed

24. Giving human qualities to nonhuman things

25. The main character in a story

26. A pair of two lines in a poem containing end rhymes

27. Spoken dialogue by a character in a play

28. The main part of the story where complications arise

29. A genre of fiction that contains magical elements

30. Words whose sounds suggest their meaning

31. A type of folklore that explains something about nature, the world, or how things came to be the way they are

32. A subdivision of an act that changes for a new time or location; ends where characters leave the stage

33. The repetition of the same initial consonant sound among words

34. What happens in the opposite of what we expect would happen

35. A group of set lines in a poem not quite with a line of poetry

36. A group of words whose collective meaning is quite different from their individual, literal meaning

37. Phrases or lines of a poem that are repeated

38. Words whose final syllables have the exact same sound

39. The author tells you explicitly what a character is like

40. A genre that is not in the future and based on the impact of real, potential, or imagined technology

41. Rhymes at the ends of lines

42. A repetition of consonant sounds among words

43. Where the setting, characters, and basic situation are revealed

44. A comparison of unlike things by saying that one thing is a dissimilar object or thing

45. A simile, which is used in the opposite of what is meant

46. A truth about life that is revealed in a story

47. A recurring symbol or motif in literature

48. The narrator is not in the story but focuses on one character's point of view

49. Rhymes within lines

50. The effect when the reader or audience knows something a character does not know

51. A genre that is not in the modern present with human characters

Short Story of the Month
Pre-Assessment

Reading Literature

Pre-Assessment Part 2: Application "The Cop and the Anthem"

Read "The Cop and the Anthem" by O. Henry and choose the best answer for each question. Use the text to help answer these questions.

52. What type of figurative language is used in this excerpt?

He stood up slowly, just by just, as a carpenter's rule opens, and he took his hat from his head.

a. simile
b. metaphor
c. personification
d. hyperbole

53. What type of figurative language is used in this excerpt?

He stood up slowly, just by just, as a carpenter's rule opens, and he took his hat from his head.

a. simile
b. metaphor
c. personification
d. hyperbole

54. What is the genre of the story?

a. realistic fiction
b. myth
c. historical fiction
d. fantasy

55. From what point of view is this story told?

a. first person
b. third person limited
c. third person objective
d. third person omniscient

56. The incident in the story occurs when...

a. Sleepy sits on his park bench.
b. Sleepy decides to spend winter in prison.
c. Sleepy is kicked out of the restaurant.
d. Sleepy breaks the shop window.

57. The climax of the story occurs when...

a. Sleepy steals the umbrella.
b. Sleepy is arrested and sentenced to three months in jail.
c. Sleepy is kicked out of the restaurant.
d. Sleepy hears the anthem and decides to change his life.

58. Which group of words below, taken from the first paragraph in the story, is most helpful in determining the mood?

a. winter, coming, seat
b. certain, birds, coats
c. nice, kind, park
d. restlessly, signs, unusually

59. What does Sleepy's first attempt at getting himself arrested?

a. The waiter did not call the police.
b. A woman feels sorry for Sleepy.
c. Sleepy was thrown out of the restaurant.
d. The cop didn't believe Sleepy.

60. Why doesn't Sleepy stay at a homeless shelter during the winter?

a. The shelters were often too full during the hardest winter months.
b. Only women and children were accepted at the shelter.
c. There were no homeless shelters in New York City.
d. Sleepy did not want to receive charity.

61. Considering your answer to the previous question, what does this reveal about the character of Sleepy?

a. Sleepy has a mental disorder and probably should be in a mental hospital.
b. Sleepy still has his dignity and is not willing to accept it.
c. Sleepy does not trust strangers.
d. Sleepy struggles to communicate effectively with others.

62. What was the author's main purpose in the first paragraph of the story?

a. to establish the setting
b. to characterize the protagonist
c. to develop the plot
d. to introduce the conflict

63. Which character trait best describes Sleepy in the story?

a. proud and determined
b. timid and thoughtful
c. lonely and depressed
d. quiet and thoughtful

64. Which excerpt below most strongly supports your answer to the previous question?

"Richard New Yorkman made their large plans to go to Florida or to the shore of the Mediterranean Sea each winter. Sleepy made his small plan for going to the island. He would move from one building to another, and he would be taken care of through the winter."

a. Sleepy's hopes for the winter were not very high.
b. And also in a moment his heart answered this change in his soul. He would fight to change his life. He would pull himself up, out of the mud.

65. Which excerpt below includes imagery?

a. The umbrella man hurried away. The cop helped a lady across the street. Sleepy walked out. Sleepy stepped inside the shop, took the umbrella, and walked slowly away. The man followed him quickly.
b. The moon was above, serene and lustreless. Vehicles and pedestrians were few. Sparrows nestled sleepily in the eaves.
c. At last Sleepy came to one of the quiet streets on the east side of the city. He turned here to begin to walk south toward Madison Square.

66. Which choice is the best objective summary of the story?

a. A resident of Madison Square Park tries to improve his circumstances but instead discovers that his present circumstances do not need changing.
b. A homeless man believes that he is invisible to everyone around him, but he soon discovers that others can see into his soul.
c. Sleepy, a homeless man struggling with his circumstances, finds refuge in an old church. It turns out that he's too irresponsible for his own good.
d. A homeless man under refuge for the winter but instead finds his own desire to improve his circumstances. Thus, that choice is ripped away.

67. What is the central theme of the story?

a. Those who commit crimes must be punished.
b. Freedom can mean different things to different people.
c. Family is the most important thing in life, no matter where you live.
d. New York City is not an ideal place for homeless people.

68. Which of the following details best conveys the theme of the passage you chose above?

a. In these days his life contained such things as mothers and flowers and high hopes and friends and clear thoughts and clean clothes.
b. "I - " said the umbrella man - "that is - you know how these things happen - I - if it were an umbrella I'm very sorry - I - I found it this morning in a restaurant - if you say it goes - Sleepy yell -"
c. The prison had rules that he would have to follow. But in prison a gentleman's own life is his own.

69. Which excerpt from the story contains an allusion?

a. That was Jack Frost's calling card, a special sign for him that wrote his name in the snow.
b. Three big newspapers, some under his coat and some over his lap during the night in the park.
c. He could move from one building to another, and he would be taken care of through the winter. But he liked Blackwell's Island better.
d. But as Sleepy put his foot inside the restaurant door, the head wait and ten waiters that covered his legs.

70. What traditional role do the police officers play in the story?

a. the watchdog, adding law, humor, and a new perspective to the story
b. the guardians, testing the hero before his greatest challenge
c. the shadow, creating conflict and giving the hero something to rely on
d. the ally, detaching the hero from his journey and keeping him on track

71. "The Cop and the Anthem" can be classified as which type of traditional story?

a. a rags to riches, a story where the hero rises above his circumstances
b. a comedy, a story that involves misunderstanding or confusion
c. a tragedy, a story that ends in some type of loss or death
d. a coming-of-age story, a story where the hero must play a moment or overcome a huge obstacle

72. Read this excerpt from the story and answer the question that follows.

"Good evening, Richard! Don't you want to come and play with me?"

The cop was still looking. The young woman had only to move her hand, and Sleepy would be on his way to the place where he wanted to go. He was already thinking how warm he would be. The young woman turned to him. Putting out her hand, she took his arm.

"Now, Mike," she said playfully, "if you'll buy me something to drink, I would have spoken to you sooner, but the cop was watching."

With the young woman holding his arm, Sleepy walked past the cop. He was filled with sadness, seemingly glad to leave.

What is the main point the author wants the reader to understand from the underlined phrase?

a. Liberty for Sleepy is not a good thing as it is for most people.
b. Sleepy doesn't completely understand the concept of liberty.
c. Sleepy could achieve liberty in a homeless shelter if he were willing to forgo his pride.
d. Sleepy will likely not be arrested at all.

Short Story of the Month
Pre-Assessment

Reading Literature

Pre-Assessment Part 4: Compare Media Types "The Cop and the Anthem"

View the video clip from "The Cop and the Anthem." Use the story as well to help you answer these questions.

73. Which aspect of the opening scene from the short film *The Cop and the Anthem* was not inspired by the original short story by O. Henry?

a. the park bench
b. the prison
c. the newspapers
d. the dog

74. Which of the following is a likely reason for the change you selected in the previous question?

a. so that the viewer understands that Sleepy is homeless
b. so that Sleepy is sitting instead of standing throughout the opening scene
c. so that Sleepy has someone to share his thoughts with
d. so that the viewer understands the time period in which the story is set

75. Which statement describes a similarity between the story and the movie excerpt?

a. Sleepy battles in the park's fountain.
b. A single dead leaf lands near Sleepy's shoe.
c. Sleepy is just waking up when the story/movie begins.
d. Sleepy smells spending winter in prison.

76. Which statement is true about the story but not true about the movie excerpt?

a. Sleepy battles in the park's fountain.
b. A single dead leaf lands near Sleepy's shoe.
c. Sleepy is just waking up when the story/movie begins.
d. Sleepy smells spending winter in prison.

77. The author uses imagery and figurative language to set the mood in the story. Which of the choices below describes one additional way the filmmakers set the mood in the opening scene?

a. with animation and consonance
b. with story devices
c. with music
d. with dramatic irony

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Pre-Assessment

Reading Literature

Pre-Assessment Part 3: Analysis "The Cop and the Anthem"

Read "The Cop and the Anthem" by O. Henry and choose the best answer for each question. Use the text to help answer these questions.

78. Read the first paragraph in the story. Which word below best describes the mood?

a. joyful
b. depressed
c. uncertain
d. creepy

79. Which group of words below, taken from the first paragraph in the story, is most helpful in determining the mood?

a. winter, coming, seat
b. certain, birds, coats
c. nice, kind, park
d. restlessly, signs, unusually

80. What does Sleepy's first attempt at getting himself arrested?

a. The waiter did not call the police.
b. A woman feels sorry for Sleepy.
c. Sleepy was thrown out of the restaurant.
d. The cop didn't believe Sleepy.

81. Why doesn't Sleepy stay at a homeless shelter during the winter?

a. The shelters were often too full during the hardest winter months.
b. Only women and children were accepted at the shelter.
c. There were no homeless shelters in New York City.
d. Sleepy did not want to receive charity.

82. Considering your answer to the previous question, what does this reveal about the character of Sleepy?

a. Sleepy has a mental disorder and probably should be in a mental hospital.
b. Sleepy still has his dignity and is not willing to accept it.
c. Sleepy does not trust strangers.
d. Sleepy struggles to communicate effectively with others.

83. What was the author's main purpose in the first paragraph of the story?

a. to establish the setting
b. to characterize the protagonist
c. to develop the plot
d. to introduce the conflict

84. Which character trait best describes Sleepy in the story?

a. proud and determined
b. timid and thoughtful
c. lonely and depressed
d. quiet and thoughtful

85. Which excerpt below most strongly supports your answer to the previous question?

"Richard New Yorkman made their large plans to go to Florida or to the shore of the Mediterranean Sea each winter. Sleepy made his small plan for going to the island. He would move from one building to another, and he would be taken care of through the winter."

a. Sleepy's hopes for the winter were not very high.
b. And also in a moment his heart answered this change in his soul. He would fight to change his life. He would pull himself up, out of the mud.

86. Which excerpt below includes imagery?

a. The umbrella man hurried away. The cop helped a lady across the street. Sleepy walked out. Sleepy stepped inside the shop, took the umbrella, and walked slowly away. The man followed him quickly.
b. The moon was above, serene and lustreless. Vehicles and pedestrians were few. Sparrows nestled sleepily in the eaves.
c. At last Sleepy came to one of the quiet streets on the east side of the city. He turned here to begin to walk south toward Madison Square.

87. Which choice is the best objective summary of the story?

a. A resident of Madison Square Park tries to improve his circumstances but instead discovers that his present circumstances do not need changing.
b. A homeless man believes that he is invisible to everyone around him, but he soon discovers that others can see into his soul.
c. Sleepy, a homeless man struggling with his circumstances, finds refuge in an old church. It turns out that he's too irresponsible for his own good.
d. A homeless man under refuge for the winter but instead finds his own desire to improve his circumstances. Thus, that choice is ripped away.

88. What is the central theme of the story?

a. Those who commit crimes must be punished.
b. Freedom can mean different things to different people.
c. Family is the most important thing in life, no matter where you live.
d. New York City is not an ideal place for homeless people.

89. Which of the following details best conveys the theme of the passage you chose above?

a. In these days his life contained such things as mothers and flowers and high hopes and friends and clear thoughts and clean clothes.
b. "I - " said the umbrella man - "that is - you know how these things happen - I - if it were an umbrella I'm very sorry - I - I found it this morning in a restaurant - if you say it goes - Sleepy yell -"
c. The prison had rules that he would have to follow. But in prison a gentleman's own life is his own.

90. Which excerpt from the story contains an allusion?

a. That was Jack Frost's calling card, a special sign for him that wrote his name in the snow.
b. Three big newspapers, some under his coat and some over his lap during the night in the park.
c. He could move from one building to another, and he would be taken care of through the winter. But he liked Blackwell's Island better.
d. But as Sleepy put his foot inside the restaurant door, the head wait and ten waiters that covered his legs.

91. What traditional role do the police officers play in the story?

a. the watchdog, adding law, humor, and a new perspective to the story
b. the guardians, testing the hero before his greatest challenge
c. the shadow, creating conflict and giving the hero something to rely on
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92. "The Cop and the Anthem" can be classified as which type of traditional story?

a. a rags to riches, a story where the hero rises above his circumstances
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93. Read this excerpt from the story and answer the question that follows.

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"Now, Mike," she said playfully, "if you'll buy me something to drink, I would have spoken to you sooner, but the cop was watching."

With the young woman holding his arm, Sleepy walked past the cop. He was filled with sadness, seemingly glad to leave.

What is the main point the author wants the reader to understand from the underlined phrase?

a. Liberty for Sleepy is not a good thing as it is for most people.
b. Sleepy doesn't completely understand the concept of liberty.
c. Sleepy could achieve liberty in a homeless shelter if he were willing to forgo his pride.
d. Sleepy will likely not be arrested at all.

Short Story of the Month
Pre-Assessment

Reading Literature

Pre-Assessment Part 4: Compare Media Types "The Cop and the Anthem"

View the video clip from "The Cop and the Anthem." Use the story as well to help you answer these questions.

94. Which aspect of the opening scene from the short film *The Cop and the Anthem* was not inspired by the original short story by O. Henry?

a. the park bench
b. the prison
c. the newspapers
d. the dog

95. Which of the following is a likely reason for the change you selected in the previous question?

a. so that the viewer understands that Sleepy is homeless
b. so that Sleepy is sitting instead of standing throughout the opening scene
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96. Which statement describes a similarity between the story and the movie excerpt?

a. Sleepy battles in the park's fountain.
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98. The author uses imagery and figurative language to set the mood in the story. Which of the choices below describes one additional way the filmmakers set the mood in the opening scene?

a. with animation and consonance
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Short Story of the Month
Pre-Assessment

Reading Literature

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101. What does Sleepy's first attempt at getting himself arrested?

a. The waiter did not call the police.
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102. Why doesn't Sleepy stay at a homeless shelter during the winter?

a. The shelters were often too full during the hardest winter months.
b. Only women and children were accepted at the shelter.
c. There were no homeless shelters in New York City.
d. Sleepy did not want to receive charity.

103. Considering your answer to the previous question, what does this reveal about the character of Sleepy?

a. Sleepy has a mental disorder and probably should be in a mental hospital.
b. Sleepy still has his dignity and is not willing to accept it.
c. Sleepy does not trust strangers.
d. Sleepy struggles to communicate effectively with others.

104. What was the author's main purpose in the first paragraph of the story?

a. to establish the setting
b. to characterize the protagonist
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105. Which character trait best describes Sleepy in the story?

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114. Read this excerpt from the story and answer the question that follows.

"Good evening, Richard! Don't you want to come and play with me?"

The cop was still looking. The young woman had only to move her hand, and Sleepy would be on his way to the place where he wanted to go. He was already thinking how warm he would be. The young woman turned to him. Putting out her hand, she took his arm.

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Pre-Assessment

Reading Literature

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Pre-Assessment

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"Richard New Yorkman made their large plans to go to Florida or to the shore of the Mediterranean Sea each winter. Sleepy made his small plan for going to the island. He would move from one building to another, and he would be taken care of through the winter."

a. Sleepy's hopes for the winter were not very high.
b. And also in a moment his heart answered this change in his soul. He would fight to change his life. He would pull himself up, out of the mud.

128. Which excerpt below includes imagery?

a. The umbrella man hurried away. The cop helped a lady across the street. Sleepy walked out. Sleepy stepped inside the shop, took the umbrella, and walked slowly away. The man followed him quickly.
b. The moon was above, serene and lustreless. Vehicles and pedestrians were few. Sparrows nestled sleepily in the eaves.
c. At last Sleepy came to one of the quiet streets on the east side of the city. He turned here to begin to walk south toward Madison Square.

129. Which choice is the best objective summary of the story?

a. A resident of Madison Square Park tries to improve his circumstances but instead discovers that his present circumstances do not need changing.
b. A homeless man believes that he is invisible to everyone around him, but he soon discovers that others can see into his soul.
c. Sleepy, a homeless man struggling with his circumstances, finds refuge in an old church. It turns out that he's too irresponsible for his own good.
d. A homeless man under refuge for the winter but instead finds his own desire to improve his circumstances. Thus, that choice is ripped away.

130. What is the central theme of the story?

a. Those who commit crimes must be punished.
b. Freedom can mean different things to different people.
c. Family is the most important thing in life, no matter where you live.
d. New York City is not an ideal place for homeless people.

131. Which of the following details best conveys the theme of the passage you chose above?

a. In these days his life contained such things as mothers and flowers and high hopes and friends and clear thoughts and clean clothes.
b. "I - " said the umbrella man - "that is - you know how these things happen - I - if it were an umbrella I'm very sorry - I - I found it this morning in a restaurant - if you say it goes - Sleepy yell -"
c. The prison had rules that he would have to follow. But in prison a gentleman's own life is his own.

132. Which excerpt from the story contains an allusion?

a. That was Jack Frost's calling card, a special sign for him that wrote his name in the snow.
b. Three big newspapers, some under his coat and some over his lap during the night in the park.
c. He could move from one building to another, and he would be taken care of through the winter. But he liked Blackwell's Island better.
d. But as Sleepy put his foot inside the restaurant door, the head wait and ten waiters that covered his legs.

133. What traditional role do the police officers play in the story?

a. the watchdog, adding law, humor, and a new perspective to the story
b. the guardians, testing the hero before his greatest challenge
c. the shadow, creating conflict and giving the hero something to rely on
d. the ally, detaching the hero from his journey and keeping him on track

134. "The Cop and the Anthem" can be classified as which type of traditional story?

a. a rags to riches, a story where the hero rises above his circumstances
b. a comedy, a story that involves misunderstanding or confusion
c. a tragedy, a story that ends in some type of loss or death
d. a coming-of-age story, a story where the hero must play a moment or overcome a huge obstacle

135. Read this excerpt from the story and answer the question that follows.

"Good evening, Richard! Don't you want to come and play with me?"

The cop was still looking. The young woman had only to move her hand, and Sleepy would be on his way to the place where he wanted to go. He was already thinking how warm he would be. The young woman turned to him. Putting out her hand, she took his arm.

"Now, Mike," she said playfully, "if you'll buy me something to drink, I would have spoken to you sooner, but the cop was watching."

With the young woman holding his arm, Sleepy walked past the cop. He was filled with sadness, seemingly glad to leave.

What is the main point the author wants the reader to understand from the underlined phrase?

a. Liberty for Sleepy is not a good thing as it is for most people.
b. Sleepy doesn't completely understand the concept of liberty.
c. Sleepy could achieve liberty in a homeless shelter if he were willing to forgo his pride.
d. Sleepy will likely not be arrested at all.

Short Story of the Month
Pre-Assessment

Reading Literature

Pre-Assessment Part 4: Compare Media Types "The Cop and the Anthem"

View the video clip from "The Cop and the Anthem." Use the story as well to help you answer these questions.

136. Which aspect of the opening scene from the short film *The Cop and the Anthem* was not inspired by the original short story by O. Henry?

a. the park bench
b. the prison
c. the newspapers
d. the dog

137. Which of the following is a likely reason for the change you selected in the previous question?

a. so that the viewer understands that Sleepy is homeless
b. so that Sleepy is sitting instead of standing throughout the opening scene
c. so that Sleepy has someone to share his thoughts with
d. so that the viewer understands the time period in which the story is set

138. Which statement describes a similarity between the story and the movie excerpt?

a. Sleepy battles in the park's fountain.
b. A single dead leaf lands near Sleepy's shoe.
c. Sleepy is just waking up when the story/movie begins.
d. Sleepy smells spending winter in prison.

139. Which statement is true about the story but not true about the movie excerpt?

a. Sleepy battles in the park's fountain.
b. A single dead leaf lands near Sleepy's shoe.
c. Sleepy is just waking up when the story/movie begins.
d. Sleepy smells spending winter in prison.

140. The author uses imagery and figurative language to set the mood in the story. Which of the choices below describes one additional way the filmmakers set the mood in the opening scene?

a. with animation and consonance
b. with story devices
c. with music
d. with dramatic irony

Short Story of the Month
Pre-Assessment

Reading Literature

Pre-Assessment Part 3: Analysis "The Cop and the Anthem"

Read "The Cop and the Anthem" by O. Henry and choose the best answer for each question. Use the text to help answer these questions.

141. Read the first paragraph in the story. Which word below best describes the mood?

a. joyful
b. depressed
c. uncertain
d. creepy

142. Which group of words below, taken from the first paragraph in the story, is most helpful in determining the mood?

a. winter, coming, seat
b. certain, birds, coats
c. nice, kind, park
d. restlessly, signs, unusually

143. What does Sleepy's first attempt at getting himself arrested?

a. The waiter did not call the police.
b. A woman feels sorry for Sleepy.
c. Sleepy was thrown out of the restaurant.
d. The cop didn't believe Sleepy.

144. Why doesn't Sleepy stay at a homeless shelter during the winter?

a. The shelters were often too full during the hardest winter months.
b. Only women and children were accepted at the shelter.
c. There were no homeless shelters in New York City.
d. Sleepy did not want to receive charity.

145. Considering your answer to the previous question, what does this reveal about the character of Sleepy?

a. Sleepy has a mental disorder and probably should be in a mental hospital.
b. Sleepy still has his dignity and is not willing to accept it.
c. Sleepy does not trust strangers.
d. Sleepy struggles to communicate effectively with others.

146. What was the author's main purpose in the first paragraph of the story?

a. to establish the setting
b. to characterize the protagonist
c. to develop the plot
d. to introduce the conflict

147. Which character trait best describes Sleepy in the story?

a. proud and determined
b. timid and thoughtful
c. lonely and depressed
d. quiet and thoughtful

148. Which excerpt below most strongly supports your answer to the previous question?

"Richard New Yorkman made their large plans to go to Florida or to the shore of the Mediterranean Sea each winter. Sleepy made his small plan for going to the island. He would move from one building to another, and he would be taken care of through the winter."

a. Sleepy's hopes for the winter were not very high.
b. And also in a moment his heart answered this change in his soul. He would fight to change his life. He would pull himself up, out of the mud.

149. Which excerpt below includes imagery?

a. The umbrella man hurried away. The cop helped a lady across the street. Sleepy walked out. Sleepy stepped inside the shop, took the umbrella, and walked slowly away. The man followed him quickly.
b. The moon was above, serene and lustreless. Vehicles and pedestrians were few. Sparrows nestled sleepily in the eaves.
c. At last Sleepy came to one of the quiet streets on the east side of the city. He turned here to begin to walk south toward Madison Square.

150. Which choice is the best objective summary of the story?

a. A resident of Madison Square Park tries to improve his circumstances but instead discovers that his present circumstances do not need changing.
b. A homeless man believes that he is invisible to everyone around him, but he soon discovers that others can see into his soul.
c. Sleepy, a homeless man struggling with his circumstances, finds refuge in an old church. It turns out that he's too irresponsible for his own good.
d. A homeless man under refuge for the winter but instead finds his own desire to improve his circumstances. Thus, that choice is ripped away.

151. What is the central theme of the story?

a. Those who commit crimes must be punished.
b. Freedom can mean different things to different people.
c. Family is the most important thing in life, no matter where you live.
d. New York City is not an ideal place for homeless people.

152. Which of the following details best conveys the theme of the passage you chose above?

a. In these days his life contained such things as mothers and flowers and high hopes and friends and clear thoughts and clean clothes.
b. "I - " said the umbrella man - "that is - you know how these things happen - I - if it were an umbrella I'm very sorry - I - I found it this morning in a restaurant - if you say it goes - Sleepy yell -"
c. The prison had rules that he would have to follow. But in prison a gentleman's own life is his own.

153. Which excerpt from the story contains an allusion?

a. That was Jack Frost's calling card, a special sign for him that wrote his name in the snow.
b. Three big newspapers, some under his coat and some over his lap during the night in the park.
c. He could move from one building to another, and he would be taken care of through the winter. But he liked Blackwell's Island better.
d. But as Sleepy put his foot inside the restaurant door, the head wait and ten waiters that covered his legs.

154. What traditional role do the police officers play in the story?

a. the watchdog, adding law, humor, and a new perspective to the story
b. the guardians, testing the hero before his greatest challenge
c. the shadow, creating conflict and giving the hero something to rely on
d. the ally, detaching the hero from his journey and keeping him on track

155. "The Cop and the Anthem" can be classified as which type of traditional story?

a. a rags to riches, a story where the hero rises above his circumstances
b. a comedy, a story that involves misunderstanding or confusion
c. a tragedy, a story that ends in some type of loss or death
d. a coming-of-age story, a story where the hero must play a moment or overcome a huge obstacle

156. Read this excerpt from the story and answer the question that follows.

"Good evening, Richard! Don't you want to come and play with me?"

The cop was still looking. The young woman had only to move her hand, and Sleepy would be on his way to the place where he wanted to go. He was already thinking how warm he would be. The young woman turned to him. Putting out her hand, she took his arm.

"Now, Mike," she said playfully, "if you'll buy me something to drink, I would have spoken to you sooner, but the cop was watching."

With the young woman holding his

About the Grade 8 Pre-Assessment for Reading Literature

Digital Slides (make a copy to share with students):

LINK OMITTED IN PREVIEW FILE

This exam was designed to serve two purposes – to assess the various terms, concepts, and skills your students have learned this year (See Parts 1 and 2) as well as assess their ability to answer Common Core Assessment-Style questions (See Parts 3-4).

*This assessment also aligns directly with my **Short Story of the Month Club, Grade 8 Short Story Unit Collection**, but you can absolutely use it even if you haven't used these short story units. You'll notice that the terms come from mini-lessons included with various stories and the style of questions is the same that they've seen monthly on the unit comprehension skills tests.*

Because RL.8.7 requires students analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story stays faithful to or departs from the text, I have included a movie clip that must be played for students to answer questions 82-86.

If you do not wish to show the video clip during the exam, simply omit the last page and only give students the portion of the exam up to question 81.

I have included two versions of this exam to help you differentiate for students with testing modifications.

Version 1: Regular Version

Version 2: Modified Version, no more than 5 options for literary term definitions, and no more than 2 options for multiple choice questions

Version 1 Samples

Version 2 Samples

- | | | | | |
|--------|----------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| mood | scene | alliteration | realistic fiction | complete rhymes |
| climax | metaphor | symbolism | science fiction | dynamic character |
| myth | couplet | hyperbole | static character | historical fiction |
| simile | imagery | consonance | internal rhymes | partial rhymes |
| line | suspense | onomatopoeia | falling action | third person limited |
| verse | fantasy | personification | foreshadowing | indirect characterization |
| tone | refrain | verbal irony | character traits | direct characterization |
- a subdivision of an act that changes for a new time or location; ends when characters leave the stage
 - the repetition of the same initial consonant sound among words
 - what happens is the opposite of what we expect would happen
 - a grouped set of lines in a poem set apart with a line of space
 - a group of words whose collective meaning is quite different from their individual, literal meaning
 - phrases or lines of a poem that are repeated
 - words whose final syllables have the exact same sound

- what happens is the opposite of what we expect would happen
- a grouped set of lines in a poem set apart with a line of space
- a group of words whose collective meaning is quite different from their individual, literal meaning
- phrases or lines of a poem that are repeated
- words whose final syllables have the exact same sound
- the author tells you explicitly what a character is like
- vivid writing that appeals to the senses
- the anxiety a reader feels about what may happen next in a story
- the most exciting or intense part of the story for the protagonist; a turning point in the story
- a genre that is set in the future and based on the impact of real, potential, or imagined technology
- stanza
- alliteration
- direct characterization
- complete rhymes
- imagery
- refrain
- suspense
- science fiction
- exposition
- climax

- Read the first paragraph in the story. Which word below best describes the **mood**?
 - morbid
 - depressed
 - unsettled
 - creepy
- Which group of words below, taken from the first paragraph in the story, is most helpful in determining the **mood**?
 - winter, coming, seat
 - certain, birds, coats
 - nice, kind, park
 - restlessly, signs, uneasily
- What foils Soapy's first attempt at getting himself arrested?
 - The waiter did not call the police.
 - A woman feels sorry for Soapy.
 - Soapy was thrown out of the restaurant.
 - The cop didn't believe Soapy.
- Why doesn't Soapy stay at a homeless shelter during the winter?
 - The shelters were often too full during the harshest winter months.
 - Only women and children were accepted at the shelter.
 - There were no homeless shelters in New York City.
 - Soapy did not want to receive charity.
- Considering your answer to the previous question, what does this **reveal** about the **character** of Soapy?
 - Soapy has a mental disorder and probably should be in a mental hospital.
 - Soapy still has his dignity and is not willing to sacrifice it.
 - Soapy does not trust charity.

- Read the first paragraph in the story. Which word below best describes the **mood**?
 - unsettled
 - depressed
- Which group of words below, taken from the first paragraph in the story, is most helpful in determining the **mood**?
 - winter, coming, seat
 - restlessly, signs, uneasily
- What foils Soapy's first attempt at getting himself arrested?
 - The waiter did not call the police.
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- Why doesn't Soapy stay at a homeless shelter during the winter?
 - Soapy did not want to receive charity.
 - The shelters were often too full during the harshest winter months.
- Considering your answer to the previous question, what does this **reveal** about the **character** of Soapy?
 - Soapy still has his dignity and is not willing to sacrifice it.
 - Soapy struggles to communicate effectively with others.

Question Type Samples

Part 1: Content Knowledge

55 questions

Short Story of the Month

Pre-Assessment

Reading Literature

Pre-Assessment Part 1: Content Knowledge

Read each definition. Write the correct term on the line provided.

plot	script	exposition	situational irony	stage directions
theme	stanza	archetype	rising action	end rhymes
idiom	assonance	antagonist	first person	third person omniscient
act	flashback	resolution	protagonist	dramatic irony
mood	scene	alliteration	realistic fiction	complete rhymes
climax	metaphor	symbolism	science fiction	dynamic character
myth	couplet	hyperbole	static character	historical fiction
simile	imagery	consonance	internal rhymes	partial rhymes
line	suspense	onomatopoeia	falling action	third person limited
verse	fantasy	personification	foreshadowing	indirect characterization
tone	refrain	verbal irony	character traits	direct characterization

- _____ 1. what happens in a story; the chain of events that make up a story
- _____ 2. a comparison that uses the words like or as
- _____ 3. the end of the story where the main conflict is resolved
- _____ 4. a character who undergoes a deep change from within in a story

Part 2: Application

Includes full story text

9 questions

- _____ 57. What type of **figurative language** is used in this excerpt?
He stood up slowly, joint by joint, as a carpenter's rule opens, and beat the dust from his clothes.
 a. simile c. personification
 b. metaphor d. hyperbole
- _____ 58. What is the **genre** of the story?
 a. realistic fiction c. historical fiction
 b. myth d. fantasy
- _____ 59. From what **point of view** is this story told?
 a. first person c. third person objective
 b. third person limited d. third person omniscient
- _____ 60. The **inciting incident** of the story occurs when...
 a. Soapy sits on his park bench. c. Soapy is kicked out of the restaurant.
 b. Soapy resolves to spend winter in prison. d. Soapy breaks the shop window.

Parts 3-4: Analysis

+ Compare:

Includes short movie clip

22 questions

- _____ 80. "The Cop and the Anthem" can be classified as which type of traditional story?
 a. rags to riches, a story where the hero rises above his circumstances
 b. comedy, a story that involves misunderstanding or confusion resulting in humor or irony
 c. tragedy, a story that ends in some type of loss or death
 d. overcoming the monster, a story where the hero must slay a monster or overcome a huge obstacle
- _____ 81. Read this excerpt from the story and answer the question that follows.
 "Good evening, Bedelia! Don't you want to come and play with me?"
 The cop was still looking. The young woman had only to move her hand, and Soapy would be on his way to the place where he wanted to go. He was already thinking how warm he would be. The young woman turned to him. Putting out her hand, she took his arm.
 "Sure, Mike," she said joyfully, "if you'll buy me something to drink. I would have spoken to you sooner, but the cop was watching."
 With the young woman holding his arm, Soapy walked past the cop. He was filled with sadness, seemingly doomed to liberty.
 What is the main point the author wants the reader to understand from the underlined phrase?
 a. Liberty for Soapy is not a good thing as it is for most people.
 b. Soapy doesn't completely understand the concept of liberty.
 c. Soapy could achieve liberty in a homeless shelter if he were willing to forego his pride.
 d. Soapy will likely not be arrested at all.

Passage Included: The Cop and the Anthem (adapted version)

Short Story of the Month

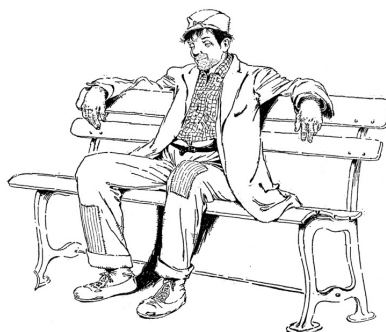
Pre-Assessment

Story 1/5

Reading Literature

The Cop and the Anthem O. Henry

- 1 Soapy moved restlessly on his bench in Madison Square. There are certain signs to show that winter is coming. Birds begin to fly south. Women who want nice new warm coats become very kind to their husbands. And Soapy moves uneasily on his seat in the park. When you see these signs, you know that winter is near.
- 2 A dead leaf fell at Soapy's feet. That was Jack Frost's calling card, a special sign for him that winter was coming. It was time for all who lived in Madison Square to prepare.
- 3 Soapy's mind now realized the fact. The time had come. He had to find some way to take care of himself during the cold weather. And therefore he moved restlessly on his seat.
- 4 Soapy's hopes for the winter were not very high. He was not thinking of sailing away on a ship. He was not thinking of southern skies, or of the Bay of Naples. Three months in the prison on Blackwell's Island was what he wanted. Three months of food every day and a bed every night. Three months safe from the cold north wind and safe from cops. This seemed to Soapy the most desirable thing in the world.
- 5 For years Blackwell's Island had been his winter home. Richer New Yorkers made their large plans to go to Florida or to the shore of the Mediterranean Sea each winter. Soapy made his small plans for going to the Island.
- 6 And now the time had come. Three big newspapers, some under his coat and some over his legs, had not kept him warm during the night in the park. So Soapy was thinking of the Island.
- 7 There were places in the city where he could go and ask for food and a bed. These would be given to him. He could move from one building to another, and he would be taken care of through the winter. But he liked Blackwell's Island better.
- 8 Soapy's spirit was proud. If he went to any of these places, there were certain things he had to do. If not in coin you must pay in humiliation for every benefit received at the hands of philanthropy. They would not ask him for money. But they would make him wash his whole body. They would make him answer questions; they would want to know everything about his life.



Short Story of the Month

Pre-Assessment

Story 2/5

Reading Literature

- 10 Soapy, having decided to go to the Island, at once began to move toward his desire.
- 11 There were many easy ways of doing this. The most pleasant way was to go and have a good dinner at some fine restaurant. Then he would say that he had no money to pay. And then a cop would be called. It would all be done very quietly. The cop would arrest him. He would be taken to a judge. The judge would do the rest.
- 12 Soapy left his seat and walked out of Madison Square to the place where the great street called Broadway and Fifth Avenue meet. He went across this wide space and started north on Broadway. He stopped at a large and brightly lighted restaurant. This was where the best food and the best people in the best clothes appeared every evening.
- 13 Soapy believed that above his legs he looked all right. His face was clean. His coat was good enough. If he could get to a table, he believed that success would be his. The part of him that would be seen above the table would look all right. The waiter would bring him what he asked for.
- 14 He began thinking of what he would like to eat. In his mind he could see the whole dinner. The cost would not be too high. He did not want the restaurant people to feel any real anger. But the dinner would leave him filled and happy for the journey to his winter home.
- 15 But as Soapy put his foot inside the restaurant door, the head waiter saw his broken old shoes and torn clothes that covered his legs. Strong and ready hands turned Soapy around and moved him quietly and quickly outside again.
- 16 Soapy turned off Broadway. It seemed that this easy, this most desirable way to the Island was not to be his. He must think of some other way of getting there.
- 17 At a corner of Sixth Avenue was a shop with a wide glass window, bright with electric lights. Soapy picked up a big stone and threw it through the glass. People came running around the corner. A cop was the first among them. Soapy stood still and smiled when he saw the cop.
- 18 "Where's the man that did that?" asked the cop.
- 19 "Don't you think that I might have done it?" said Soapy. He was friendly and happy. What he wanted was coming toward him.
- 20 But the cop's mind would not consider Soapy. Men who break windows do not stop there to talk to cops. They run away as fast as they can. The cop saw a man further along the street, running. He ran after him. And Soapy, sick at heart, walked slowly away. He had failed two times.
- 21 Across the street was another restaurant. It was not so fine as the one on Broadway. The people who went there were not so rich. Its food was not so good. Into this, Soapy took his old shoes and his torn clothes, and no one stopped him. He sat down at a table and was soon eating a big dinner. When he had finished, he said that he and money were strangers.
- 22 "Get busy and call a cop," said Soapy. "And don't keep a gentleman waiting."

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Short Story of the Month

Pre-Assessment

Story 3/5

Reading Literature

- 23 "No cop for you," said the waiter. He called another waiter.
- 24 The two waiters threw Soapy upon his left ear on the hard street outside. He stood up slowly, joint by joint, as a carpenter's rule opens, and beat the dust from his clothes. Prison seemed only a happy dream. The Island seemed very far away. A cop who was standing near laughed and walked away.
- 25 Soapy traveled almost half a mile before he tried again. This time he felt very certain that he would be successful. A nice-looking young woman was standing before a shop window, looking at the objects inside. Very near stood a large cop.
- 26 Soapy's plan was to speak to the young woman. She seemed to be a very nice young lady, who would not want a strange man to speak to her. She would ask the cop for help. And then Soapy would be happy to feel the cop's hand on his arm. He would be on his way to the Island.
- 27 He went near her. He could see that the cop was already watching him. The young woman moved away a few steps. Soapy followed. Standing beside her he said:
- 28 "Good evening, Bedella! Don't you want to come and play with me?"
- 29 The cop was still looking. The young woman had only to move her hand, and Soapy would be on his way to the place where he wanted to go. He was already thinking how warm he would be.
- 30 The young woman turned to him. Putting out her hand, she took his arm.
- 31 "Sure, Mike," she said joyfully, "if you'll buy me something to drink. I would have spoken to you sooner, but the cop was watching."
- 32 With the young woman holding his arm, Soapy walked past the cop. He was filled with sadness, seemingly doomed to liberty.

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Short Story of the Month

Pre-Assessment

Story 4/5

Reading Literature

- 39 Soapy was quiet. Was no cop going to touch him? He began to think of the Island as if it were as far away as heaven. He pulled his thin coat around him. The wind was very cold.
- 40 Then he saw a man in the shop buying a newspaper. The man's umbrella stood beside the door. Soapy stepped inside the shop, took the umbrella, and walked slowly away. The man followed him quickly.
- 41 "My umbrella," he said.
- 42 "Oh, is it?" said Soapy. "Why don't you call a cop? I took it. Your umbrella! Why don't you call a cop? There's one standing at the corner."
- 43 "The man walked more slowly. Soapy did the same. But he had a feeling that he was going to fail again. The cop looked at the two men."
- 44 "I —" said the umbrella man — "that is — you know how these things happen — I — if that's your umbrella I'm very sorry — I — I found it this morning in a restaurant — if you say it's yours — I hope you'll —"
- 45 "It's mine!" cried Soapy with anger in his voice.
- 46 The umbrella man hurried away. The cop helped a lady across the street. Soapy walked east. He threw the umbrella as far as he could throw it. He talked to himself about cops and what he thought of them. Because he wished to be arrested, they seemed to believe he was like a king, who could do no wrong.
- 47 At last Soapy came to one of the quiet streets on the east side of the city. He turned here and began to walk south toward Madison Square. He was going home, although home was only a seat in the park.
- 48 But on a very quiet corner Soapy stopped. There was an old, old church, neat and quaint. Through one of the colored-glass windows came a soft light. Sweet music came to Soapy's ears and seemed to hold him there.
- 49 The moon was above, serene and lustrous. Vehicles and pedestrians were few. Sparrows twittered sleepily in the eaves.
- 50 And the anthem that came from the church held Soapy there, for he had known it well long ago. In those days his life contained such things as mothers and flowers and high hopes and friends and clean thoughts and clean clothes.
- 51 Soapy's mind was ready for something like this. He had come to the old church at the right time. There was a sudden and wonderful change in his soul. He viewed with horror the pit into which he had tumbled. He saw with sick fear how he had fallen. He saw his worthless days, his wrong desires, his dead hopes, the lost power of his mind.

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he would have to follow. But in prison a

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Short Story of the Month

Pre-Assessment

Story 5/5

Reading Literature

- 52 And also in a moment his heart answered this change in his soul. He would fight to change his life. He would pull himself up, out of the mud. He would make a man of himself again.
- 53 There was time. He was young enough. He would find his old purpose in life, and follow it. That sweet music had changed him. Tomorrow he would find work. A man had once offered him a job. He would find that man tomorrow. He would be somebody in the world. He would —
- 54 Soapy felt a hand on his arm. He looked quickly around into the broad face of a cop.
- 55 "What are you doing hanging around here?" asked the cop.
- 56 "Nothing," said Soapy.
- 57 "You think I believe that?" said the cop.
- 58 Full of his new strength, Soapy began to argue. And it is not wise to argue with a New York cop. "Come along," said the cop.
- 59 "Three months on the Island," said the Judge to Soapy the next morning.

Specific Standards Identified in Key (GREEN) for Each Question!

Short Story of the Month

Pre-Assessment

Reading Literature

Pre-Assessment Part 3: Analysis "The Cop and the Anthem"

Read "The Cop and the Anthem" by O. Henry and choose the best answer for each question. Use the text to help you answer these questions.

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 a. proud and determined c. lonely and depressed
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 a. Richer New Yorkers made their large plans to go to Florida or to the shore of the Mediterranean Sea each winter. Soapy made his small plans for going to the Island.
 b. He could move from one building to another, and he would be taken care of through the winter.
 c. Soapy's hopes for the winter were not very high.
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The Cop and the Anthem O. Henry

1 Soapy moved restlessly on his bench in Madison Square. There are certain signs to show that winter is coming. Birds begin to fly south. Women who want nice new warm coats become very kind to their husbands. And Soapy moves uneasily on his seat in the park. When you see these signs, you know that winter is near.

2 A dead leaf fell at Soapy's feet. That was Jack Frost's calling card, a special sign for him that winter was coming. It was time for all who lived in Madison Square to prepare.

3 Soapy's mind now realized the fact. The time had come. He had to find some way to take care of himself during the cold weather. And therefore he moved restlessly on his seat.

4 Soapy's hopes for the winter were not very high. He was not thinking of sailing away on a ship. He was not thinking of southern skies, or of the Bay of Naples. Three months in the prison on Blackwell's Island was what he wanted. Three months of food every day and a bed every night. Three months safe from the cold north wind and safe from cops. This seemed to Soapy the most desirable thing in the world.

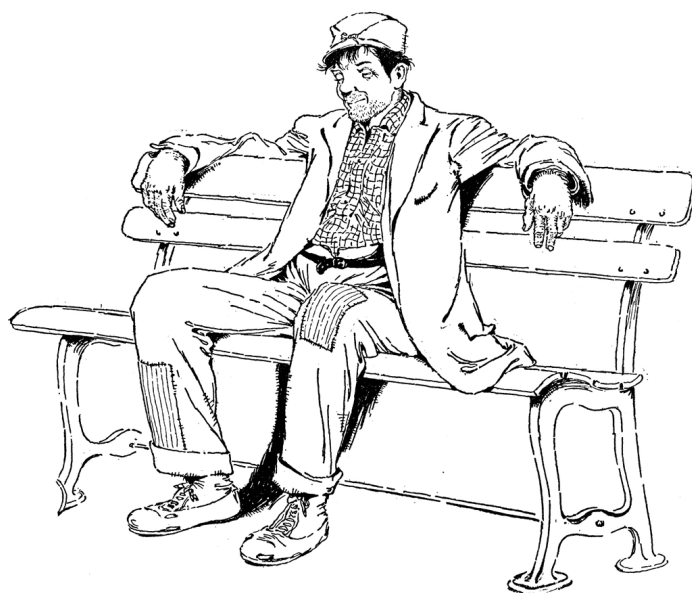
5 For years Blackwell's Island had been his winter home. Richer New Yorkers made their large plans to go to Florida or to the shore of the Mediterranean Sea each winter. Soapy made his small plans for going to the Island.

6 And now the time had come. Three big newspapers, some under his coat and some over his legs, had not kept him warm during the night in the park. So Soapy was thinking of the Island.

7 There were places in the city where he could go and ask for food and a bed. These would be given to him. He could move from one building to another, and he would be taken care of through the winter. But he liked Blackwell's Island better.

8 Soapy's spirit was proud. If he went to any of these places, there were certain things he had to do. If not in coin you must pay in humiliation for every benefit received at the hands of philanthropy. They would not ask him for money. But they would make him wash his whole body. They would make him answer questions; they would want to know everything about his life.

9 No. Prison was better than that. The prison had rules that he would have to follow. But in prison a gentleman's own life was still his own life.



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