**Semester Exam: January 2013 A**

**Multiple Choice**

*Identify the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.*

**Common and Proper Nouns**

\_\_\_\_ 1. What is a common noun

\_\_\_\_ 2. What is a proper noun

**Possessive Nouns**

\_\_\_\_ 3. Know how to show singular and plural possessive.

\_\_\_\_ 4. Know how to show singular and plural possessive.

**Using Pronouns Correctly**

\_\_\_\_ 5. Understand use of pronouns such as me, you, I, him, he, etc.

\_\_\_\_ 6. Understand use of pronouns such as me, you, I, him, he, etc.

**Action and Linking Verbs**

\_\_\_\_ 7. Identify the **verb** in a sentence. (It’s the action word)

\_\_\_\_ 8. Identify the **complete verb** in a sentence. Remember that a complete verb can contain had or has, as in: They **had bought** a new house.

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\_\_\_\_ 9. Know the difference between a linking verb and an action verb.

**Elements of Literature**

\_\_\_\_ 10. What is setting?

\_\_\_\_ 11. What is plot?

\_\_\_\_ 12. What is theme?

**Adjectives with Nouns or Pronouns**

*Write the letter of the word that each underlined adjective describes.*

\_\_\_\_ 13. The sun was brutally hot, and a fierce wind swept across the plains.

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|  | The word fierce tells what kind of wind it was. It is an adjective. |
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\_\_\_\_ 14. In the airport a French official asked to see our passports.

The word French tells what kind of official it was. It is an adjective.

\_\_\_ 15. Our breakfast of cereal and milk was nutritious. The word nutritious tells what kind of breakfast it was. It is an adjective.

\_\_\_\_ 16. The night was dark, and every house on the street was still. The word dark tells what kind of night it was. It is an adjective.

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**Comparatives and Superlatives**

\_\_\_\_ 17. Know superlatives like big, bigger, biggest.

**Adverbs That Compare**

\_\_\_\_ 18. People should ride the bus \_\_\_\_\_\_than they do. The words more often tell how much the bus should be ridden by people.

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\_\_\_\_ 19. No one sings\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_than I do. The word worse tells how I sing.

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\_\_\_\_ 20. Fran jumped\_\_\_\_\_\_ on her fourth attempt. The word farthest tells how Fran jumped.

**Figurative Language**

\_\_\_\_ 21. Know simile.

\_\_\_\_ 22. Know personification.

\_\_\_\_ 23. Know metaphor.

\_\_\_\_ 24. Know onomatopoeia.

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**Other Proper Nouns and Adjectives**

*Write the letter of the word, or group of words, in each sentence that should be capitalized.*

\_\_\_\_ 25. Know capitalization of proper nouns.

\_\_\_\_ 26. Know capitalization of proper nouns.

**Commas, Semicolons, Colons, Apostrophes, and Hyphens**

\_\_\_\_ 27. Know punctuation.

\_\_\_\_ 28. Know punctuation.

\_\_\_\_ 29. Know punctuation.

\_\_\_\_ 30. Know punctuation.

\_\_\_\_ 31. Know punctuation.

**Quotation Marks and Italics**

\_\_\_\_ 32. Know quotation marks for dialogue.

**Abbreviations and Numbers**

\_\_\_\_ 33. Know abbreviations.

\_\_\_\_ 34. Know how and when to write numbers.

**Combining Sentences**

*Write the letter of the choice that best combines the sentences.*

\_\_\_\_ 35. Know how to combine two sentences to make one.

\_\_\_\_ 36. Know how to combine three sentences to make one.

\_\_\_\_ 37. Know how to combine three sentences to make one.

**Traits of Writing, Kinds of Writing**

\_\_\_\_ 38. Know traits of writing

\_\_\_\_ 39. What word signals an expository essay?

\_\_\_\_ 40. If you are writing a story, what kind of essay would it be?

\_\_\_\_ 41. What words signal a persuasive essay?

\_\_\_\_ 42. How do you begin an essay?

\_\_\_\_ 43. **Before** you begin writing, you should think about your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Sentence Structure**

\_\_\_\_ 44. The five elements of a good sentence include:

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**Sequencing**

 *Read the story below and answer the questions that follow.*

On your mark. Get set. Go! The dirt bike racers are off. It looks like Todd James is in the lead and there seems to be a pile up on the first corner. Todd seems to be doing awesome. The rest are fighting to get in second and third. These 250's are really flying over the track. 4 laps to go. Oh no, Todd seems to have hit the wall. The white flag means to get in a group and go slow. It looks like the ambulance is coming in. He may have a serious injury. Let's replay the tape. He comes around the corner, spins out of control, and hits the wall head on. I don't think he will be riding for a long time. The next day, the doctors said he has a fractured spine.

\_\_\_\_ 45. What happens **first**?

\_\_\_\_ 46. What happens **second?**

\_\_\_\_ 47. What happens **third?**

\_\_\_\_ 48. What happens **fourth?**

**Reading Comprehension: Nonfiction**

 *Read the following and answer the questions that follow.*

**The Boston Tea Party**

' In 1763 England celebrated a great victory. It had won its war with France and, under the peace treaty, had gained Canada as well as France's lands east of the Mississippi River. The king of England was **jubilant**, but he faced a serious problem. His country needed money! The war had been long and expensive. In addition, there would now be the cost of keeping British soldiers in America to protect England's expanded territory. With the king's encouragement, Parliament decided to raise money by passing laws that taxed the American colonies.

 Colonists were outraged by these laws. They had no representation in Parliament. Why then, they argued, should Parliament have the right to pass tax laws affecting the colonies? To demonstrate their anger, many colonists stopped buying English goods.

 The resentment of British rule continued. Many colonists believed that England's actions were taking away their basic rights. In 1773 the relationship between the colonies and England became even worse. In May of that year Parliament passed the Tea Act, a law designed to help the British East India Company gain control of all tea sales in the American colonies. To avoid the tax on tea shipped from England, colonial merchants had been selling tea smuggled in from Holland. Now they would lose business to agents for the East India Company, and the hated tea tax would have to be paid.

 In the fall of 1773 seven ships loaded with tea from the East India Company set sail for America. The ships that arrived in New York and Philadelphia were met by protesting colonists who forced them to return to England. In Boston, three tea ships arrived. The colonists were determined to send them back, but Thomas Hutchinson, royal governor of the Massachusetts colony, refused to allow this. "The tea must be unloaded," he declared.

 Day after day the ships remained in Boston, tied up at Griffin's Wharf. The colonists wouldn't let the ships be unloaded. The governor wouldn't permit the ships to leave. With no acceptable resolution in sight, a group of colonists held secret meetings and hatched a plan. "If the ships aren't sent back, we'll turn Boston Harbor into a teapot," they whispered.

 On the evening of December 16, 1773, a large group of men dressed as Mohawk Indians rushed down to Griffin's Wharf. To further hide their identities, they had smeared soot and red paint on their faces. Split into three groups, they boarded each of the ships. The men then hauled the 342 tea chests onto the decks, broke them open with axes, and dumped all of the tea into the water. The ships were left clean and undamaged. Only their cargo was destroyed.

 This daring act of **defiance** helped set off a series of events that eventually resulted in America's independence from England. Just 16 months after this "tea party," the Revolutionary War began.

\_\_\_\_ 49. What is the **main purpose** of the first paragraph of this passage?

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\_\_\_\_ 50. In the first paragraph, it says that "the king of England was jubilant." Which of these is the best **antonym** for *jubilant?*

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\_\_\_\_ 51. The colonists felt that Parliament's laws that taxed the American colonists were

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\_\_\_\_ 52. Why was tea smuggled into the colonies from Holland?

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\_\_\_\_ 53. Based on what you read in this passage, you can conclude that Thomas Hutchinson

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\_\_\_\_ 54. Why did many of the men who took part in the Boston Tea Party wear Indian blankets over their clothes?

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\_\_\_\_ 55. In the last paragraph, the Boston Tea Party is described as a "daring act of defiance." The word *defiance means*

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\_\_\_\_ 56. In what year did the Revolutionary War begin?

**Reading Comprehension: Fiction**

*In this folktale from Tuscany, a region of Italy, a shepherd tries to stay a step ahead of March weather. Read the folktale and then answer the questions that follow.*

*March and the*

*Shepherd*

Retold by Domenico Vittorini

1 One morning at the very beginning of spring, a shepherd led his sheep to graze, and on the way he met March.

2 "Good morning," said March. "Where are you going to take your sheep to graze today?"

3 "Well, March, today I am going to the mountains."

4 "Fine, Shepherd. That's a good idea. Good luck." But to himself March said,

"Here's where I have some fun, for today I'm going to fix you."

5 And that day in the mountains the rain came down in buckets. It was a veritable

deluge. The shepherd, however, had watched March's face very carefully and noticed a mischievous look on it. So instead of going to the mountains, he had remained in the plains. In the evening, upon returning home, he met March again.

6 "Well, Shepherd, how did it go today?"

7 "It couldn't have been better. I changed my mind and went to the plains. A very

beautiful day. Such a lovely warm sun."

8 "Really? I'm glad to hear it," said March, but he bit his lip in vexation. "Where

are you going tomorrow?"

9 "Tomorrow I'm going to the plains, too. With this fine weather, I would be crazy

if I went to the mountains?'

10 "Oh, really? Fine! Farewell."

11 And they parted.

12 But the shepherd didn't go to the plains again. He went to the mountains. And

on the plains March brought rain and wind and hail—a punishment indeed from heaven. In the evening he met the shepherd homeward bound.

13 "Good evening, Shepherd. How did it go today?"

14 "Very well indeed. Do you know? I changed my mind again and went to the

mountains after all. It was heavenly there. What a day! What a sky! What a sun!"

15 "I'm really happy to hear it, Shepherd. And where are you going tomorrow?"

16 "Well, tomorrow I'm going to the plains. I see dark clouds over the mountains.

I wouldn't want to find myself too far from home."

17 To make a long story short, whenever the shepherd met March, he always told

him the opposite of what he planned to do the next day, so March was never able to catch him. The end of the month came, and on the last day, the thirtieth, March said to the shepherd, "Well, Shepherd, how is everything?"

18 "Things couldn't be any better. This is the end of the month and I'm out of

danger. There's nothing to fear now. I can begin to sleep peacefully."

19 "That's true, said March." "And where are you going tomorrow?"

20 The shepherd, certain that he had nothing to fear, told March the truth. "Tomorrow,"

he said, "I shall go to the plains. The distance is shorter and the work less hard."

21 "Fine. Farewell."

22 March hastened to the home of his cousin April and told her the whole story. "I want you to lend me at least one day," he said. "I am determined to catch this shepherd." Gentle April was unwilling but March coaxed so hard that finally she consented.

23 The following morning the shepherd set off for the plains. No sooner had his

flock scattered than there arose a storm that chilled his very heart. The sharp wind howled and growled, snow fell in thick, icy flakes, hail pelted down. It was all the shepherd could do to get his sheep back into the fold.

24 That evening as the shepherd huddled in a corner of his hearth, silent and

melancholy, March paid him a visit.

25 "Good evening, Shepherd," he said.

26 "Good evening, March."

27 "How did it go today?"

25 "I'd rather not talk about it," said the shepherd. "I can't understand what happened.

Not even in the middle of January have I ever seen a storm like the one on the plains today. It seemed as if all the devils had broken loose from hell. Today I had enough rough weather to last me the whole year. And oh, my poor sheep!"

29 Then at last was March satisfied.

30 And from that time on March has had thirty-one days because, as it is said in

Tuscany, the rascal never returned to April the day he borrowed from her.

\_\_\_\_ 57. Which of the following phrases from paragraph 5 is an example of figurative language?

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\_\_\_\_ 58. Based on paragraph 8, what is **true** about March?

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\_\_\_\_ 59. Based on paragraphs 17 and 18, what does the shepherd believe?

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\_\_\_\_ 60. Based on the folktale, which of the shepherd’s statements **most likely** makes March the happiest?

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\_\_\_\_ 61. Read the sentence from paragraph 23 in the box below.

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| It was all the shepherd could do to get his sheep back into the fold. |

The word *fold* is used as which part of speech in the sentence?

**Vocabulary**

\_\_\_\_ 62. Prewriting is:

\_\_\_\_ 63. Drafting is:

\_\_\_\_ 64. Revising is:

\_\_\_\_ 65. Editing is:

**Essay**

(Worth 10 points)

 66. Prompt: Think about the Language Arts activity that you enjoyed most this semester. What about the activity made it engaging for you?

Now, on a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph explaining what your favorite Language Arts activity was, what you learned, and why it was engaging for you. (Remember to apply the writing skills we've learned in your paragraph!)