



**KNOX
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL**

STATE

DA VINCI DECATHLON 2018

CELEBRATING THE ACADEMIC GIFTS OF STUDENTS

IN YEARS 7 & 8



ENGLISH

TEAM NUMBER _____

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
/10	/10	/10	/30	/30	/20	/10	/120

QUESTION ONE

SUPRISING SPELLINGS

TEN WORDS WILL BE READ OUT TO YOU. PLEASE WRITE THE CORRECT WORDS BELOW

10 MARKS

1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.

QUESTION TWO

UNDERDOGS

THE BOOKS LISTED BELOW FEATURE UNEXPECTED HEROES – ALSO KNOWN AS UNDERDOGS. FILL IN THE MISSING BOOK, AUTHOR OR UNDERDOG TO COMPLETE EACH LINE.

10 MARKS

BOOK	AUTHOR	UNDERDOGS
<i>Harry Potter books</i>		Ron Weasley
	Ken Kesey	Chief Bromden
<i>Catch 22</i>		Captain John Yossarian
	Aesop	Tortoise
<i>Looking for Alaska</i>	John Green	
<i>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i>		Arthur Dent
	Jerry Spinelli	Jeffrey Lionel "Maniac" Magee
<i>The Wind in the Willows</i>		Ratty
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	William Shakespeare	
	S.E.Hinton	Ponyboy

QUESTION THREE

UNEXPECTED ENDINGS

THE BOOKS LISTED BELOW FEATURE UNEXPECTED ENDINGS. FILL IN THE MISSING TITLE OR AUTHOR TO COMPLETE EACH LINE.

10 MARKS

TITLE	AUTHOR	CHARACTERS
<i>Shutter Island</i>		Edward "Teddy" Daniels
	Chinua Achebe	Okonkwo
<i>The Great Gatsby</i>		Jay Gatsby
	E.Lockhart	Cadence Sinclair Eastman
<i>My Sister's Keeper</i>		Anna Fitzgerald
<i>Charlotte's Web</i>		Wilbur
	John Boyne	Bruno
<i>City of Bone</i>		Clarissa "Clary" Fray/Fairchild/Morgenstern
	Orson Scott Card	Ender Wiggin
<i>I am Legend</i>		Robert Neville

QUESTION FOUR

TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED

A DIAMOND AS BIG AS THE RITZ BY F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

30 MARKS

Late that night, he found his way to camp and twelve hours later all the males among his darkies were back by the squirrel hole digging furiously at the side of the mountain. He told them he had discovered a rhinestone mine, and, as only one or two of them had ever seen even a small diamond before, they believed him, without question. When the magnitude of his discovery became apparent to him, he found himself in a quandary. The mountain was a diamond—it was literally nothing else but solid diamond. He filled four saddle bags full of glittering samples and started on horseback for St. Paul. There he managed to dispose of half a dozen small stones—when he tried a larger one a storekeeper fainted and Fitz-Norman was arrested as a public disturber. He escaped from jail and caught the train for New York, where he sold a few medium-sized diamonds and received in exchange about two hundred thousand dollars in gold. But he did not dare to produce any exceptional gems—in fact, he left New York just in time. Tremendous excitement had been created in jewelry circles, not so much by the size of his diamonds as by their appearance in the city from mysterious sources. Wild rumors became current that a diamond mine had been discovered in the Catskills, on the Jersey coast, on Long Island, beneath Washington Square. Excursion trains, packed with men carrying picks and shovels, began to leave New York hourly, bound for various neighboring El Dorados. But by that time young Fitz-Norman was on his way back to Montana.

By the end of a fortnight he had estimated that the diamond in the mountain was approximately equal in quantity to all the rest of the diamonds known to exist in the world. There was no valuing it by any regular computation, however, for it was one solid diamond—and if it were offered for sale not only would the bottom fall out of the market, but also, if the value should vary with its size in the usual arithmetical progression, there would not be enough gold in the world to buy a tenth part of it. And what could any one do with a diamond that size?

It was an amazing predicament. He was, in one sense, the richest man that ever lived—and yet was he worth anything at all? If his secret should transpire there was no telling to what measures the Government might resort in order to prevent a panic, in gold as well as in jewels. They might take over the claim immediately and institute a monopoly.

There was no alternative—he must market his mountain in secret. He sent South for his younger brother and put him in charge of his colored following—darkies who had never realized that slavery was abolished. To make sure of this, he read them a proclamation that he had composed, which announced that General Forrest had reorganized the shattered Southern armies and defeated the North in one pitched battle. The negroes believed him implicitly. They passed a vote declaring it a good thing and held revival services immediately.

Fitz-Norman himself set out for foreign parts with one hundred thousand dollars and two trunks filled with rough diamonds of all sizes. He sailed for Russia in a Chinese junk and six months after his departure from Montana he was in St. Petersburg. He took obscure lodgings and called immediately upon the court jeweller, announcing that he had a diamond for the Czar. He remained in St. Petersburg for two weeks, in constant danger of being murdered, living from lodging to lodging, and afraid to visit his trunks more than three or four times during the whole fortnight.

On his promise to return in a year with larger and finer stones, he was allowed to leave for India. Before he left, however, the Court Treasurers had deposited to his credit, in American banks, the sum of fifteen million dollars—under four different aliases.

He returned to America in 1868, having been gone a little over two years. He had visited the capitals of twenty-two countries and talked with five emperors, eleven kings, three princes, a shah, a khan, and a sultan. At that time Fitz-Norman estimated his own wealth at one billion dollars. One fact worked consistently against the disclosure of his secret. No one of his larger diamonds remained in the public eye for a week before being invested with a history of enough fatalities, amours, revolutions, and wars to have occupied it from the days of the first Babylonian Empire.

From 1870 until his death in 1900, the history of Fitz-Norman Washington was a long epic in gold. There were side issues, of course—he evaded the surveys, he married a Virginia lady, by whom he had a single son, and he was compelled, due to a series of unfortunate complications, to murder his brother, whose unfortunate habit of drinking himself into an indiscreet stupor had several times endangered their safety. But very few other murders stained these happy years of progress and expansion.

Just before he died he changed his policy, and with all but a few million dollars of his outside wealth bought up rare minerals in bulk, which he deposited in the safety vaults of banks all over the world, marked as bric-a-brac. His son, Braddock Tarleton Washington, followed this policy on an even more tensive scale. The minerals were converted into the rarest of all elements—radium—so that the equivalent of a billion dollars in gold could be placed in a receptacle no bigger than a cigar box.

A. IDENTIFY THE THEMES WHICH ARE BEST REPRESENTED BY EACH QUOTE. CHOOSE FROM THE THEMES LISTED BELOW

8 MARKS

QUOTES	THEMES		
‘...he was compelled, due to a series of unfortunate complications, to murder his brother, whose unfortunate habit of drinking himself into an indiscreet stupor had several times endangered their safety.’			
‘ He remained in St. Petersburg for two weeks, in constant danger of being murdered, living from lodging to lodging, and afraid to visit his trunks more than three or four times during the whole fortnight.’			
‘There he managed to dispose of half a dozen small stones--when he tried a larger one a storekeeper fainted and Fitz-Norman was arrested as a public disturber.’			
‘The minerals were converted into the rarest of all elements--radium--so that the equivalent of a billion dollars in gold could be placed in a receptacle no bigger than a cigar box.’			
‘If his secret should transpire there was no telling to what measures the Government might resort in order to prevent a panic, in gold as well as in jewels. They might take over the claim immediately and institute a monopoly.’			
‘No one of his larger diamonds remained in the public eye for a week before being invested with a history of enough fatalities, amours, revolutions, and wars to have occupied it from the days of the first Babylonian Empire.’			
‘At that time Fitz-Norman estimated his own wealth at one billion dollars.’			
‘To make sure of this, he read them a proclamation that he had composed, which announced that General Forrest had reorganized the shattered Southern armies and defeated the North in one pitched battle.’			
THEMES			
Power of Wealth Individual vs. Society	Freedom and Confinement Overcoming the Odds	Deception Greed as a Downfall	Capitalism Power of Silence

B. COMPREHENSION: MULTIPLE CHOICE

8 MARKS

1. What is another word for 'magnitude' in reference to how it is used in the text?
 - a) significance
 - b) consequence
 - c) weight
 - d) degree

2. What is another word for 'tremendous' in reference to how it is used in the text?
 - a) whopping
 - b) vast
 - c) monumental
 - d) jumbo

3. What is another word for 'computation' in reference to how it is used in the text?
 - a) ciphering
 - b) figuring
 - c) gauge
 - d) calculation

4. What is another word for 'predicament' in reference to how it is used in the text?
 - a) crisis
 - b) quagmire
 - c) jam
 - d) fix

5. What is another word for 'aliases' in reference to how it is used in the text?
 - a) tag
 - b) nickname
 - c) pseudonym
 - d) handle

6. What is another word for 'amours' in reference to how it is used in the text?
 - a) liaisons
 - b) courting
 - c) flings
 - d) encounters

7. What is another word for 'indiscreet' in reference to how it is used in the text?
 - a) careless
 - b) insensitive
 - c) hasty
 - d) rude

8. What is another word for 'receptacle' in reference to how it is used in the text?
 - a) bowl
 - b) trunk
 - c) case
 - d) jar

C. COMPREHENSION: SHORT ANSWER RESPONSE

8 MARKS

Why was Fitz-Norman in a quandary?	
Why did Fitz-Norman need to leave New York so quickly?	
Why might the Government institute a monopoly?	
Why did his slaves continue to work for him?	
Why was he in 'constant danger of being murdered' while in Russia?	
When did Fitz-Norman Washington leave America?	
How did his brother endanger their safety?	
Why did Fitz-Norman Washington name the minerals 'bric-brac'?	

QUESTION FIVE

UNEXPECTED ENDINGS

UNEXPECTED ENDINGS OFTEN ADD A UNIQUE TWIST TO STORIES TO ENGAGE THE READER AND FORESHADOW THE OUTCOME OF THE TEXT.

30 MARKS

Task: You are to write the next chapter of *A Diamond as Big as the Ritz* to emulate Fitzgerald's writing. This is known as a pastiche. A pastiche is a literary piece that imitates another famous literary work of another writer. Unlike parody, its purpose is not to mock but to honour the literary piece it imitates. Ensure that you continue to write in a similar way to Fitzgerald to create interesting characters, surprising plot twists, vivid vocabulary and detailed descriptions that emulating his style. Make sure you create a title for your chapter. **Maximum length two pages.**

CRITERIA	SOUND	EFFECTIVE	SKILFUL
The title and ideas reflect the topic chosen	1-2	3	4-5
Imitates the Fitzgerald's style	1-2	3	4-5
Surprising plot twists	1-2	3	4-5
Originality	1-2	3	4-5
Rich vocabulary	1-2	3	4-5
Control of language, spelling and structure – writing conventions	1-2	3	4-5
			Total /30

QUESTION SIX

UNEXPECTED VISITORS

BECAUSE I COULD NOT STOP FOR DEATH BY EMILY DICKINSON

20 MARKS

BECAUSE I COULD NOT STOP FOR DEATH BY EMILY DICKINSON

Because I could not stop for Death-
He kindly stopped for me-
The Carriage held but just Ourselves-
And Immortality.

We slowly drove- He knew no haste
And I had put away
My labor and my leisure too,
For His Civility-

We passed the School, where Children strove
At Recess- in the Ring-
We passed the Fields of Gazing Grain-
We passed the Setting Sun-

Or rather- He passed us-
The Dews drew quivering and chill-
For only Gossamer, my Gown-
My Tippet- only Tulle-

We paused before a House that seemed
A Swelling of the Ground-
The Roof was scarcely visible-
The Cornice- in the Ground-

Since then- 'tis Centuries- and yet
Feels shorter than the Day
I first surmised the Horses' Heads
Were toward Eternity-

A. FIND A WORD – GIVE THE DEFINITION

IDENTIFY 6 WORDS IN THE POEM THAT MEET THE DEFINITIONS PROVIDED

6 MARKS (1 MARK EACH)

WORD	DEFINITION
	Unending life
	A polite action or courtesy
	To shake with a slight but rapid motion
	Infinite time
	Barely; hardly; not quite
	A thin, light fabric

B. VOCABULARY

FIND THE SYNONYM IN THE POEM FOR THE WORDS BELOW

4 MARKS (½ MARK EACH)

WORD FROM POEM	SYNONYM
	Halt
	Urgency
	Activity
	Endeavor
	Suspend
	Just
	Obvious
	Deduced

C. POETIC DEVICES AND THEME
IDENTIFY THE FIVE EXAMPLES OF POETIC DEVICES AND THREE THEMES USED IN THE POEM. PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE OF EACH FROM THE POEM.

4 MARKS (½ MARK EACH)

POETRY DEVICE AND THEME	POEM EXAMPLE
Personification	
Metaphor	
Repetition	
Alliteration	
Symbolism	
Mortality	
Immortality	
Love	

D. ANALYSIS: SHORT ANSWER

RESPOND TO THE QUESTION IN ONE OR TWO SENTENCES. YOU MUST ALSO PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE FROM THE POEM TO SUPPORT YOUR RESPONSE.

6 MARKS (2 MARK EACH)

QUESTION	ANSWER
How does the speaker feel about Death?	
Is the speaker alive or dead? How can you tell?	
How has Dickinson slowed the pace of the poem?	

QUESTION SEVEN

PUZZLING PICTOGRAMS

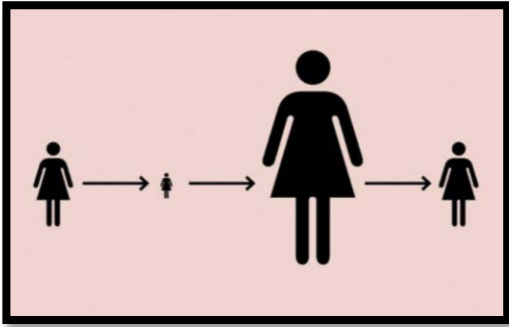
LITERATURE TITLES AND AUTHORS

A PICTOGRAM IS AN IDEOGRAM THAT CONVEYS MEANING THROUGH ITS PICTORIAL RESEMBLANCE OF A PHYSICAL OBJECT. IN THIS CASE HOWEVER, THE PICTOGRAM REPRESENTS THE TITLE OF A WELL KNOWN TEXT.

EXAMINE THE PICTOGRAMS BELOW AND NAME THE TITLE OF THE TEXT AND THE AUTHOR.

10 MARKS (1 MARK PER TITLE, 1 MARK PER AUTHOR)

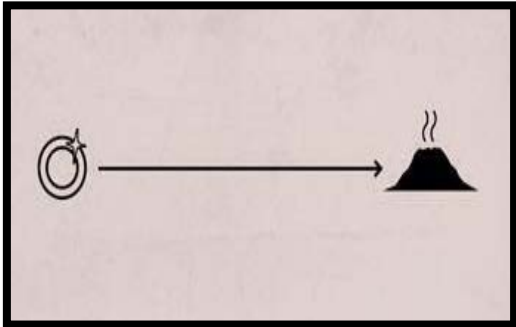
Puzzle 1



Title of text:

Author of text:

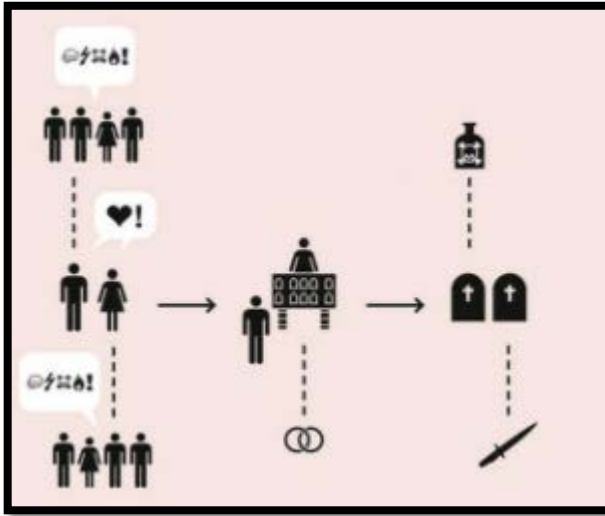
Puzzle 2



Title of text:

Author of text:

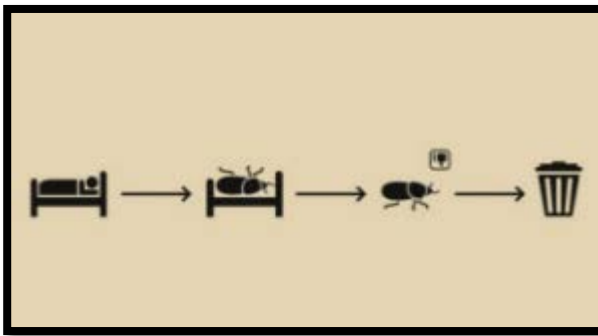
Puzzle 3



Title of text:

Author of text:

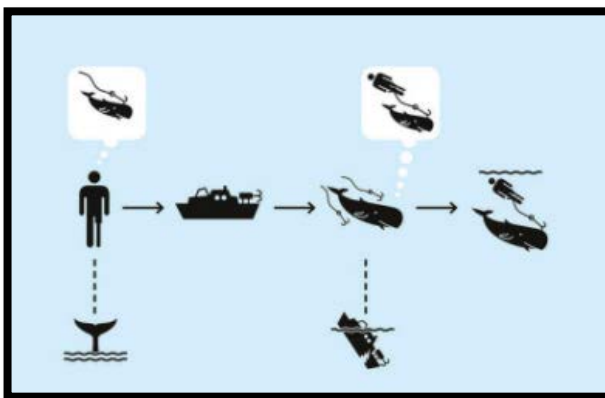
Puzzle 4



Title of text:

Author of text:

Puzzle 5



Title of text:

Author of text:

END OF PAPER