

## First Term Exam in Literature:

**Part One:** Read the following text (by H. P Lovecraft) carefully then answer the questions: (10 pts)

I- **-Suggest a title to the text: (1pt)**

- a- Original title: The Terrible Old Man.
- b- Other possible titles: The Mysterious/Enigmatic Man ...

II- **Define the literary sub-genre under which this text is classified: (1pt)**

**Short Story (0,5)** is one of the three sub-genres of fiction. It is a concise form of prose fiction with a **sense of unity**. It can be read at one sitting. (0,5)

III- **Identify the basic elements of fiction of this text: (8pts)**

1-- **Theme: (1pt)**

- Do not Judge a book by its cover.
- Appearances are deceiving.
- Underestimation may lead to unexpected results.

2--**Setting: (1pt)**

a/**Place**: The town of Kingsport (0.5)

b/**Time**: The major event takes place on the night of April 11<sup>th</sup>, but its effects continue to vibrate throughout the spring and summer of the same year. (0.5)

3-- **Conflict: (0, 5 pt)**

External Conflict: Person Vs. Person\_\_The Old Man Vs. The three Robbers \_\_ (They want to rob the hidden fortune of the old man).

4-- **Characters: (1, 5 pt)**

a/ *The Terrible Old Man*: Protagonist- Major-Round-Dynamic.

b/ *The Three Robbers* (Angelo Ricci, Joe Czanek and Manuel Silva): Antagonists- Major-Flat-Static.

c/ *Kingsport people*: Stock.

5-- **Point of View/Narrative Perspective: (2 pts)**

The story is told from:

- (1pt) a/ A Third-person narrative perspective (0, 5) mostly, for the narrative seems to nurture \* a participating figure who reveals the events about the old man from an objective position without having access to his inner thoughts and feelings using \* the third person pronouns (He/They) . **Ex**: “The inhabitants of Kingsport say .../ He is ...a very strange person”.
- (1pt) a/ An Omniscient narrative perspective because: (0, 5) \* the narrative voice is unknown, and \*the narrator uses third person pronoun (**He/They**) to reveal some of the thoughts and feelings of some characters in the story. **Ex**: “They **feared** it might be unpleasant ...” , “he –Czanek-had **expected**”. (0, 5)

6-- **Plot: (2pts)**

a/ **Type**: simple because events are ordered chronologically. (0.5)

b/ **Structure: (1, 5 --- 0, 5/ for each step)**

- **Rising Action**: - three robbers want to steal the old man’s treasure after they heard the circulating rumors about it.  
- They design a plan which will not raise suspicion.
- **Climax**: - When the two robbers stand by the door of the old man after hesitation and knock it.
- **Falling Action**: - As was not expected by the third robber, the old man kills the two robbers who sneaked into his house and moves to kill him mercilessly in his car.

-Despite the news travelling the town, the old man is unshaken.

### **Part Two: Complete the following: (5 pts)**

- 1- The didactic function of literature refers *to its ability to pass the wisdom (life lessons) of those who come before us.*
- 2- In the exposition, the events *are generally introduced to the readers to get a general picture of the narrative.*
- 3- Internal conflict happens *when a character is pitted against the self.*
- 4- A god-like narrative perspective means *the narrator knows everything internal related to the characters.*
- 5- The novella is *one of the three main sub-genres of fiction which holds an intermediary position between the novel and the short story.*

### **Part Three: (5 pts)**

➤ Having read The Old Man and the Sea in addition to the text above, write a 10-line paragraph to answer the question:

- In what way(s) does the experience of the exam text's protagonist echo that of Santiago?

○ **Form and language: (1, 5 pt)**

Paragraph (Structure, capitalization, indentation, punctuation, spelling, grammatical mistakes, respect of the nber of lines, ...)

○ **Content: (3, 5 pts)**

The experience of The Terrible Old man echoes that of Santiago in, at least, two ways:

1/ The relation with society:

- Like Santiago, The Terrible Old Man prefers isolation over interaction with his community despite knowing the resulting rumors.

2/ The relation with the self:

- Like Santiago, The Terrible Old Man's solitude experience, whether in the sea or in his house, endows him with wisdom to manage a life amidst such a society, and therefore:
- He exhibits a strong sense of resilience and perseverance in the face of adversaries like Santiago.