

Instruction: Choose three short stories from the following four short stories and tell them orally and fluently. Then answer the questions that follow each short story orally.

Story No. 1: The Third Wish

- 1. How does Mr. Peters gain his three wishes?
- 2. What is his first wish?
- 3. How is his first wish granted?
- 4. What is Mr. Peters' second wish?
- 5. Briefly describe his life after his second wish.
- 6. Why does Mr. Peters' turning his wife back into a swan show about him?
- 7. Why does Mr. Peters die with a look of happiness on his face?
- 8. Explain why Mr. Peters is found with "a withered leaf and a white feather."
- 9. Why does the author call this story "The Third Wish" instead of, for example, "The Three Wishes?"
- 10. Find three realistic and three fantastic details in this story.



Story No. 2: The Little Lizard's Sorrow

- 1. Describe the game the rich man plays with other rich men.
- 2. Why doesn't the servant send the miserable-looking visitor away?
- 3. What are the two conditions for the game that the stranger request?
- 4. How does the defeat the rich man?
- 5. What does he do with his possessions?
- 6. What happens to the rich man at the end of the story?
- 7. Why does the stranger describe himself as one of the most fortunate men alive?
- 8. Why does he treasure his coconut-shell cup more than the rich man treasures his china?
- 9. Why do you think the rich man is changed into a lizard rather than some other animal?
- 10. What, therefore, might the lizard symbolize?



Story No. 3: The Trout

- 1. Where does Julia find the trout?
- 2. What is Julia's mother's suggestion for how the trout got into the hold?
- **3.** How does her father think the trout got there?
- **4.** What troubles does Julia have about the position the trout is in?
- **5.** Tell the story that the mother makes up about the trout.
- **6.** What does Julia do to help the trout?
- 7. What do you learn about Julia's character from her going into a dark, scary place at night to help the trout?
- 8. What emotion do you think Julia has in the last paragraph of the story?
- **9.** Describe the atmosphere of the river where Julia releases the trout.
- 10. Describe what you understand about Julia's father's and mother's personality.



Story No. 4 The Night the Bed Fell

- 1. How does a difference of opinion between Thurber's parents set the stage for the events of the night?
- 2. What is Brigg's crotchet of peculiar idea?
- 3. Describe the layout of the rooms and their placement or grouping. Why is their placement important to the plot of the story?
- 4. Explain the actions that occur after Thurber's cot collapses.
- 5. Why does Thurber introduce the story with a description of some of his relatives?
- 6. Identify the moment at which the events reach their climax.
- 7. What evidence is there that Thurber felt affection for his family?
- 8. Contrast what actually happens when the bed falls and what each character thinks is happening.
- 9. Would you like to have known the Thurber family?
- 10. When does the story take place?