

**Test 1: 30 points**

Answer **two** of the questions below. Make sure that you support the points you make with ample evidence from the selections you choose to discuss. Also, do not discuss any selection more than one time, and be sure to discuss at least one work of non-fiction.

1. We live in a world of instant communication, but ironically, a number of the selections we have read and discussed focus on an individual's inability or unwillingness to communicate with someone close to him/her. Choose **two** such selections – either fiction or non-fiction – and discuss who or what is responsible for this failure to communicate and how it affects the development and overall impact of the story.
2. Many of the selections we have read this semester center around turning points in the lives of children and adolescents. Choose **two** such selections – one fiction and one non-fiction – and discuss the relative strengths and weaknesses of exploring this theme through both types of writing. In your opinion, which of the two selections is more successful? Discuss.
3. In Joe Hill's story "Late Returns" the narrator finds a sense of purpose in giving "late returns" the stories they need to feel at peace. Discuss **two** other selections we have read this semester in which books/works of fiction play a vital role in shaping the life of the writer/narrator/main character and giving him/her a sense of direction. Be specific. In the selections you choose, is this influence always a positive one? Explain.
4. Some people see addiction to drugs or alcohol as a moral flaw or a personal weakness. Others see alcoholics and drug addicts as victims of social, environmental or family pressures. Still others view it as a medical condition. Choose **two** selections we have read this semester in which a major character is shown to be struggling with addiction of some sort and discuss how these selections suggest that we view this struggle. To what extent do these selections encourage readers to sympathize with the addicts?

**Fiction**

"Late Returns" – Joe Hill  
"Bad Dreams" – Tessa Hadley  
"Snuff" – Jodi Angel  
"Protozoa" – Ella Martinsen Gorham  
"Audition" – Saïd Sayrafiezadeh  
"Bettering Myself" – Ottessa Moshfegh

**Non-fiction**

"Who's Your Daddy?" – Joe Hill  
"In the Shadow of a Fairy Tale" – Leslie Jamison  
"What My Mother and I Don't Talk About" – Michele Filgate  
"I Invented the Term 'Sadfishing'" – Rebecca Reid  
"Walkabout" – Jeffrey Eugenides  
"Dear Sugar" – Sugar  
"Positive Obsession" – Octavia Butler  
"Dry January" – Scaachi Koul  
"Miscellaneous Files" – Mary Wang and Ottessa Moshfegh