

NAME:

DATE:

CLASS:

*The Invalid's Story*

LITERARY ANALYSIS: DIALOGUE & DIALECT

**Dialogue** is a conversation between or among characters. Writers use dialogue to (1) reveal character traits and relationships, (2) to advance the action of the plot and to develop the conflict, and (3) to add variety, color, and realism to narratives.

To make characters even more vivid and to help establish a story's setting, authors may write dialogue that reflects characters' dialect. **Dialect** is a way of speaking that is common to people of a particular region or group.

**PART I. DIRECTIONS:** Use Standard English to rewrite each of the passages in dialect.

1. "Man that is born of woman is of few days and far between, as Scriptur' says."

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2. "Yes'ndeedy, it's awful solemn and cur'us; but we've all got to go, one time or another; they ain't no getting around it."

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3. "I've carried a many one of 'em—some of 'em considerable overdue, too—but, lordy, he just lays over 'em all."

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**PART II. DIRECTIONS:** Identify two (2) examples of **dialogue** in the story that indicates the smell is increasing and quote the textual evidence in the chart below. Remember, in prose, dialogue is usually set off by quotation marks, and a new paragraph indicates a change in speaker.

TEXTUAL EVIDENCE #1	
TEXTUAL EVIDENCE #2	

**PART III. CAUSE & EFFECT**

A **cause** is an event, action, or feeling that produces a result. An **effect** is the result produced.

**DIRECTIONS:** Use the lines provided to answer the following questions about cause-and-effect relationships in "The Invalid's Story."

1. As the train departs, a stranger places a package of Limburger cheese on one end of the coffin-box. What are the effects of this event?

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2. A. What causes an evil odor to spread throughout the express car?

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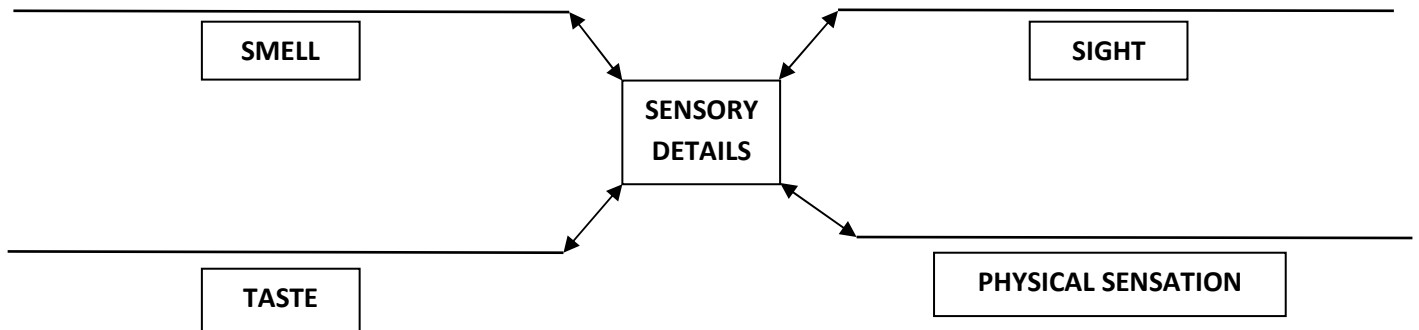
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B. What effects does the odor have on the narrator and the expressman?

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**PART IV. DIRECTIONS:** Use this diagram to list one (1) example each of smell, physical sensation, taste, sound, and sight in the express car in "The Invalid's Story." Then answer the question that follows.



**TYPE 2 WRITING:** Which sensory detail causes the greatest problem for the characters? What problem does it cause? (4 lines)

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*The Invalid's Story* Open-Book Quiz

**DIRECTIONS:** Identify the letter of the choice that best answers the question.

**1. Who is the invalid referred to in the story's title, "The Invalid's Story"?**

- A. the narrator
- B. Thompson, the expressman
- C. the narrator's friend
- D. a stranger on the train

**2. The plot of "The Invalid's Story" centers on confusion about**

- A. how long the narrator's friend has been dead.
- B. what is in the long white-pine box.
- C. what is in the stranger's bag.
- D. how the narrator lost his health.

**3. What literary element does this passage from "The Invalid's Story" illustrate?**

*"Pfew! I reckon it ain't no cinnamon't I've loaded up thish-year stove with!"*

- A. simile
- B. symbol
- C. flashback
- D. dialect

**4. An idiom is a phrase or an expression not meant to be taken literally. Dialects are often rich in idioms. Read the following excerpt from "The Invalid's Story."**

*"Well-a-well, we've all got to go, they ain't no getting around it."*

**Which of the following best expresses the meaning of the underlined words?**

- A. There is no point in going around in circles.
- B. There are ways to avoid it.
- C. There is no way to avoid it.
- D. Jumping over it is easy for some people.

**5. In "The Invalid's Story," Mark Twain uses dialect**

- A. only at the beginning and at the end.
- B. in the narrator's comments.
- C. in Deacon Hackett's dialogue.
- D. in Thompson's dialogue.

**6. In "The Invalid's Story," why do the two men light up cigars?**

- A. The cigars were a present to the narrator from the dead man.
- B. The men want to "modify" the unpleasant odor in the expressman's car.
- C. The men are trying to keep warm and think smoking might help.
- D. The engineer has requested that the men smoke cigars.

**7. In "The Invalid's Story," Thompson gives a long speech about the fact that death is inevitable for all human beings. Why do you think Twain includes this long speech?**

- A. It shows that Thompson is a brilliant philosopher.
- B. It adds humor because it is filled with repetition and clichés.
- C. It shows that Thompson sharply disagrees with the narrator.
- D. It emphasizes the characters' sense of pleasant relaxation on their trip.

**8. Visualize the action in this passage from Twain's story. What is the cause of the action?**

*He gagged and gasped, and floundered up and made a break for the door, pawing the air and saying hoarsely, "Don't hender me!—gimme the road! I'm a dying; gimme the road!"*

- A. Thompson probably has a bad case of food poisoning.
- B. Thompson is a person who likes to exaggerate whatever he is feeling.
- C. The smell in the railroad car is becoming increasingly unbearable.
- D. The railroad car has finally reached its destination.