Practice Final Exam, English 2, Prof. Steven Federle:

Name_________________________________

Directions: Read the selection from the textbook indicated below. Then answer the questions that follow.

An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge

Ambrose Bierce

Page 904-911 in Responding to Literature, 5th Edition

The following items test your understanding of the selection. Circle the letter of the response that best completes the sentence or answers the question (5 PTS. Each)

1. In this story, Farquhar had a discussion with
   a. the sergeant   b. his wife   c. a Confederate captain   d. a Union scout

2. Farquhar has been arrested for
   a. neglecting his wife.   b. making seditious statements   c. inciting a riot.   d. trying to set a bridge on fire

3. You can tell from this story that Farquhar is
   a. a Confederate officer   b. an abolitionist   c. a plantation owner   d. innocent

4. From Farquhar’s point of view, the main conflict in this story is between him and
   a. his wife.   b. the sergeant   c. the sniper   d. death

5. What did Farquhar do when he discovered that he was still alive in the river?
   a. He swam madly for the southern shore.   b. He pulled the noose from his neck.
   C. He hallucinated that his wife was with him   d. He cursed the Federal troops trying to kill him.
6. Farquhar wanted to join the Confederate army, but was unable because
   a. he had a heart condition  b. his wealthy father prevented him from joining up
   c. he was ultimately a coward  d. the author does not say why.

The following items check your understanding of the way in which the selection is written. Choose the letter of the response that best completes the sentence or answers the question (5 points each).

7. When the narrator says the “The liberal military code makes provision for hanging many kinds of persons, and gentlemen are not excluded,” this is an example of
   a. simile.  b. hyperbole.  c. metaphor.  d. irony.

8. Which sentence best helps you visualize what the soldiers on bridge look like?
   a. “The sentinels, facing the banks of the stream, might have been statues to adorn the bridge.”
   b. “...a single company of infantry in line, at ‘parade rest,’ the butts of the rifles on the ground...”
   c. “The soldiers had almost finished reloading; the metal ramrods flashed all at once....”
   d. “A lieutenant stood at the right of the line, the point of his sword upon the ground....”

9. Farquhar uses an allusion to a “student of hanging” to
   a. explain why he will survive the execution.  b. mock the Federal army’s threats against any attempts to damage the bridge.  c. describe anyone foolish enough to try to resist the Federal army.

10. Farquhar can best be described as
    a. peaceful.  b. crazy  c. unrealistic.  d. unyielding

The following items check your understanding of the way in which the selection is written. Write your response after each item (5 points each).

11. Write a brief summary of the plot of this story.
    __________________________________________________________
    __________________________________________________________
    __________________________________________________________
    __________________________________________________________
12. Describe the kinds of imagery and figurative language Bierce uses to describe Farquhar’s attempted escape. How does his use of imagery and figurative language make the description more effective?

_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

13. How does the narrator’s point of view in this story influence how the reader feels about Farquhar’s fate?
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Writing Exercise (35 points):

The following activity is designed to assess your writing ability. The prompt asks you to explain something. Think of your audience as being any reader other than yourself. When I evaluate your writing, I will look for evidence that you can:

• respond directly to the prompt;

• make your writing thoughtful and interesting;

• organize your ideas so that they are clear and easy to follow;

• develop your ideas thoroughly by using appropriate details and precise language;

• stay focused on your purpose for writing by making sure that each sentence you write contributes to your composition as a whole; and

• communicate effectively by using correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, usage, and sentence structures.

Prompt: In this story Ambrose Bierce describes vividly his character’s struggle to survive and escape. Many of the selections you have read also focus on individuals who must struggle for physical and/or spiritual survival. Choose one of the characters you have read about during this term, and write a short essay explaining how the character you choose struggled with overwhelming forces. You may choose to focus solely on the character you select, or you may compare and contrast that character to Peyton Farquhar. Use the bottom of the page to organize your ideas. Then write your essay on a separate sheet paper. Your essay should be no fewer than 300 words and no longer than 500 words. Be concise. Use a dictionary to verify your spelling. You may use classroom computers for this part of the exam. Spend no more than 1 hour on this.