**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Directions: Please use the text *The Tell Tale Heart* to answer the following questions.**

1. **Which statement best describes a major theme of the story?**
   1. Honesty can relieve you of your guilt and help you feel better.
   2. Fear can shape how we see things and how we act.
   3. Our sanity is determined by how we react to different situations.
   4. The truth is a matter of personal perception and beliefs.
2. **Which of the following quotes provides the best support for the answer to number 1?**
   1. “Whenever it fell upon me, my blood ran cold; and so by degrees — very gradually — I made up my mind to take the life of the old man, and thus rid myself of the eye forever.”
   2. “Yes, he has been trying to comfort himself with these suppositions; but he had found all in vain. All in vain; because Death, in approaching him, had stalked with his black shadow before him, and enveloped the victim.”
   3. “As the bell sounded the hour, there came a knocking at the street door. I went down to open it with a light heart, — for what had I now to fear?”
   4. “I gasped for breath — and yet the officers heard it not. I talked more quickly — more vehemently; but the noise steadily increased.”
3. **In the story, what causes the conflict between the narrator and the old man?**
4. The narrator and the old man resent having to live together because of the narrator’s disease, and so the narrator decides to murder the old man.
5. The narrator is driven mad by the sound of a heart beating beneath the floorboards, and this causes him to kill the old man.
6. The narrator watches the old man sleep, and when the terrified old man discovers this, the narrator kills him to keep his madness hidden.
7. The narrator is terrified of the old man’s blue eye and overwhelmed by the sound of his heartbeat, so the narrator kills the old man.
8. **Which of the following quotes best supports the answer to question 3?**
9. “The disease had sharpened my senses — not destroyed — not dulled them. Above all was the sense of hearing acute. I heard all things in the heaven and in the earth. I heard many things in hell.”
10. “I knew that he had been lying awake ever since the first slight noise, when he had turned in the bed. His fears had been ever since growing upon him.”
11. “But the beating grew louder, louder! I thought the heart must burst. And now a new anxiety seized me — the sound would be heard by a neighbor! The old man’s hour had come!”
12. “‘Villains!’ I shrieked, ‘dissemble no more! I admit the deed! — tear up the planks! — here, here! — it is the beating of his hideous heart!’”
13. **Which of the following best describes the significance of the beating heart throughout the story?**
    1. It represents the narrator’s own death, like the old man’s, drawing near as he faces punishment for his crime.
    2. It shows there is something supernatural happening to the narrator, for the ghost of the old man is haunting him.
    3. It represents the narrator’s guilt and worsening sanity, for the beating heart serves as a reminder of his crime.
    4. It signifies the narrator’s anxiety about not burying the old man respectfully after killing him.

**Compare and contrast the narrator’s point of view at the beginning to the end of the story. Note any differences and the possible causes behind these differences by citing quotes from the story.**

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