Mark Twain Test

1. The narrator reacted to Simon Wheeler’s story with

a. disbelief c. fascination

b. boredom d. amusement

2. Wheeler suggests that the most surprising thing about Jim Smiley’s betting was

a. his success c. his cheerful attitude about it

b. his lack of success d. the range of things on which he would bet

3. Smiley’s successes in betting were often due to

a. clever methods of cheating

b. the enthusiasm he brought to various contests

c. how unimpressive his animals seemed to others

d. an ability he had to predict what others could not

4. Wheeler suggests that the reason Smiley bet that the parson’s wife would not recover was that

a. betting was such a habit for him

b. he was trying to appear lighthearted

c. he knew she was sicker than she seemed

d. everyone else was betting that she would

5. Smiley trained his frog in order to

a. win bets c. impress people

b. get rid of flies d. prove it could be done

6. The narrator gets a chance to escape from Wheeler when Wheeler

a. falls asleep c. runs out of stories

b. is interrupted d. forgets what he was saying

7. What is the theme of this story? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. What is the setting of this story? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. What genre is this story? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Give one example from this story that

illustrates its genre. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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10. Rewrite the following sentences using Standard English rather than dialect.

*…there couldn’t be no solitary thing mentioned but that feller’d offer to bet on it.*

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*He was the curiosest man about always betting on any things that turned up you ever see.*

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11. Compare and contrast the narrator with Simon Wheeler. Consider what Mark Twain is trying to say

about the educated and uneducated. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Multiple Choice – 5 pt Short Answer – 10 pt Essay – 30 pt