9th Grade – Baker’s Bluejay Yarn

I. Vocabulary

1. Something that is commonplace is

a. unusual. b. usual. c. everywhere.

1. An underlying principle is

a. a basic rule. b. an important sign. c. a solid person.

1. To signify means to

a. wave. b. dismiss. c. represent.

1. Something that gives someone gratification gives him or her

a. money. b. satisfaction. c. pain.

1. An absurdity is something

a. foolish. b. standard. c. blue.

II. Recall and Interpret

1. The persona in this story is

a. the blue jay. c. Mark Twain.

b. Jim Baker. d. Samuel Clemens.

1. After studying birds and beasts, Jim Baker comes to the conclusion that blue jays are the

a. best talkers. c. busiest workers.

b. loudest criers. d. silliest birds.

1. The narrator knows Jim Baker can understand animals because

a. a young miner told him. c. Jim Baker told him.

b. a reporter mentioned it to him. d. he read about Jim in a magazine.

1. Jim Baker says you will never see a blue jay

a. get stuck for a word. c. go back on a promise.

b. use good grammar. d. steal.

1. At the end of the story, the blue jays

a. start crying over lost acorns. c. mock an owl.

b. have a good laugh. d. play in the acorns.

1. List three examples of how blue jays are like humans.

III. The Author

1. “Mark Twain” is a pseudonym for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Name one famous work, other than “Baker’s Bluejay Yarn,” written by Mark Twain.

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1. How did Mark Twain’s time as a steamboat captain change his life?

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IV. Essay

1. What do you learn about Jim Baker from reading this story? (Write your answer on the back of this sheet)