

Name _____

Test on Science Fiction and Satire

Password: SCIFI

Details of Stories

1. Who wrote "Micromegas"?
 - a) Joseph Conrad
 - b) Philip K. Dick
 - c) Voltaire
 - d) H. G. Wells
 - e) Sherwood Anderson
2. Which of the following is apparent from the short story regarding Micromegas and the secretary of the Saturnians?
 - a) They are irreligious.
 - b) They are dull and incurious about nature.
 - c) They are opposed to science.
 - d) They are humbled by their inferior position in the world (lifespan, number of senses, etc.)
 - e) They are the largest and most developed creatures in the universe.

Taking the size of a man to be about five feet, the figure we strike on Earth is like that struck by an animal of about six hundred thousandths the height of a flea on a ball five feet around. Imagine something that can hold the Earth in its hands, and which has organs in proportion to ours—and it may very well be that there are such things—conceive, I beg of you, what these things would think of the battles that allow a vanquisher to take a village only to lose it later.

3. Which of the following does the passage found in paragraph 3 of the section "Experiments and reasonings of the two voyagers" (reproduced above) seem to satirize?
 - a) man's ignorance of science
 - b) petty conquests of land by "important men"
 - c) ignorance of geography
 - d) religion
 - e) travel
4. Which of the following best summarizes the purpose of "Micromegas"?
 - a) to get his readers to speculate on the possibilities of alien beings
 - b) to give his readers an appreciation of various philosophers, such as Descartes, Leibnitz, Malebranche, Aristotle, and Locke.

- c) to show the worthlessness of man's endeavors in astronomy, mathematics and the other sciences
 - d) to create an awe and wonder of the world
 - e) to show the arrogance, pettiness and foolishness of mankind
5. It is repeated throughout the short story that the travels of Micromegas have in general brought him _____.
 - a) a fresh perspective regarding the variety of things in the universe
 - b) a hatred for small things
 - c) a hatred for big things
 - d) a sense of superiority
 - e) a love for his own home
 6. Who wrote "The Cloak"?
 - a) Anton Chekhov
 - b) Nikolai Gogol
 - c) Leo Tolstoy
 - d) Fyodor Dostoevsky
 - e) Ivan Turgenev
 7. Through the character Akaky Akakievich, "The Cloak" satirizes _____.
 - a) the French
 - b) writers
 - c) communism
 - d) bureaucrats
 - e) Russian winters
 8. Who wrote "The New Accelerator"?
 - a) Philip K. Dick
 - b) Voltaire
 - c) H. G. Wells
 - d) Katherine Mansfield
 - e) Sherwood Anderson
 9. Which of the following is not true of "The New Accelerator"?
 - a) It was invented by Professor Gibberne.
 - b) It accelerates the body thousands of time.
 - c) Everything around one who has ingested the drug seems to be in slow motion.
 - d) When the drug ceases to work, it does so very gradually.
 - e) It makes the person who has ingested the drug invisible to others.

10. Which of the following does not identify the narrator in the story "The New Accelerator"?
- He is a friend and neighbor of Gibberne.
 - He is an adventurous man in practice who likes to try new and unusual things.
 - He lives in Folkestone.
 - He likes thinking about scientific theories involving space and time.
 - He is immediately excited about Gibberne's new drug.
11. Which of the following typical characteristics of science fiction stories does "The New Accelerator" NOT exhibit?
- It involves aliens.
 - It involves time.
 - It involves real science.
 - It involves the potential dangers of new technology.
 - It makes the familiar world seem not so familiar.
12. Which of the following does NOT describe the story "The New Accelerator" as a whole?
- The ending is ambiguous and suggestive.
 - It has a humorous tone.
 - Much of the story involves a paranormal experience.
 - It is a story told in the first person.
 - It focuses on character development and the psychology of the characters confronting a conflict, expressed in weird symbols.
13. Which of the following correctly describes the first experiment with "The New Accelerator"?
- It ends in disaster and death for all involved.
 - There are no potential harms related to the drug.
 - The participants are not frightened at any time during the experiment.
 - It involves a "soporific."
 - The experiment involves the professor doing some "mischief."
14. In the short story "The Gun," one of the characters named Dorle says "All races have the myth of the buried treasure." What according to Dorle the dragon on the planet protecting the treasure?
- pictures, books and myths
 - the gun
 - the captain of the space ship
 - Nasha
 - the spaceship itself
15. What has happened to the planet that the spaceship landed on in the short story "The Gun"?
- The planet has been destroyed by aliens.
 - The planet had been destroyed by the alien spaceship.
 - The planet has been destroyed by an unknown plague.
 - The environment has become totally toxic from atomic fission.
 - The planet has become invisible.
16. In the beginning of the short story "The Gun," a spaceship is being fired upon. Who is firing it?
- an earthling
 - a mutated owl
 - someone from the spaceship
 - an automated machine
 - a radioactive robot
17. What do aliens in the spaceship think the name of the dead city on the planet is named?
- Franklin Apartments
 - Earth
 - Mars
 - Mount Rushmore
 - Simon's Hardware
- Background Material
18. The movie *Blade Runner* (1982) is based on a novel written by ____.
- Philip K. Dick
 - George Orwell
 - H. G. Wells
 - Jules Verne
 - Karel Capek
19. What is the great irony found in "The Gun"?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
20. To whom was Joseph Conrad speaking when he said, "You don't care for people, but you think they can be improved; I do, but know they can't."
- Philip K. Dick

- b) George Orwell
- c) H. G. Wells
- d) Jules Verne
- e) Karel Capek

Paragraph Essay (25 points)

Write a paragraph essay explaining how H.G. Well's "Accelerator" or "The Gun" typifies the science fiction genre. You should have 1) a main idea sentence (underlined). 2) at least three supporting ideas (explained using examples) and 3) a one-sentence conclusion. *Do not exceed the allowed space.*

