**Short Story Analysis Questions**

**“Issues” – t. Staunton**

**Name: ­ Score: /52**

a. Provide 3 examples from the story which illustrate **when** this story takes place? What inferences about when the story takes place can you make, according to each example (3)

*“I did not know I had maturity issues until last month…” – story is being told about an event from the recent past*

*“on page forty-three of the magazine my brother…” – Judging by tone and content this story is likely 15-20 years old. Many things seem modern but there is no internet.*

*“signed up to take my Driver’s Ed course on the March break…” “Invited to Aunt Beth’s for spring skiing…” – Story is set in late February early March.*

b. Provide 3 examples from the story which illustrate **where** this story takes place? What inferences about where the story takes place can you make, according to each example (3)

*“I’m on the porch on Sunday afternoon…” Protagonist is at his house.*

*“Driver’s Ed is at our school” – they’re spending time at school*

*“Sarah is watching as I adjust the seat” – in the car during the driver’s test.*

c. In point form, highlight the **plot** of the short story under the appropriate heading - exposition, complication, rising action, climax, resolution. (5)

*exposition – The protagonist’s parents have left for a ski trip, leaving him at home to prove his maturity. His friend Trevor will be staying with him. He also needs to prepare for a driving test and impress a girl he likes*

*complication – The protagonist has something that separates him from everyone else. He likely has some degree of autism, this manifests in his making poor decisions, even though he becomes aware later that his decision was a poor.*

*Rising action – Sarah shows kindness and attention to Josh over Trevor. He believes a relationship is possible. Trevor comes over and they begin shenanigans which has us wait for a consequence that Josh will face.*

*Climax – Josh blows the driving exam in front of Sarah.*

*Resolution – Josh had a chance to prove to his parents, Sarah, and himself that he could be mature. He blows it. He has left the house a mess, failed to look normal and impress Sarah, and has recognized his own weaknesses. Josh is not necessarily discouraged but he recognizes that he will have to put his goals on hold.*

d. From which **narration** is the short story told? Provide examples to support this point of view. (4)

*1st person POV*

1. *“I have clearly parallel parked up one of those wires…”*
2. *“As I look away, I also understand I will not be asking Sarah out at all…”*
3. *“When my stomach catches up to me, we are hanging…”*
4. *“Right,” I say, twisting my dial…”*

e. Of the four character types identified in class, which **character classification** best describes ? Provide a brief explanation, utilizing at least 1 example from the story to support your answer. (5)

*Josh – round character. While Josh doesn’t necessarily have a great revelation by story’s end, he is someone that the reader is either cheering for or frustrated by. We know enough about Josh to predict his actions going forward. When Josh blows his driver’s test, it is something that we see coming.*

f. Of the four character types identified in class, which **character classification** best describes ? Provide a brief explanation, utilizing at least 1 example from the story to support your answer. (5)

*Trevor – static character. Trevor enables and/or persuades Josh to have fun and ignore the consequences. Trevor is constantly being presented as immature such as when he farts in Sarah’s presence. Trevor is often the one who brings up bad ideas to take part in during the sleepover such as wanting to melt a CD.*

g. Provide **2** examples of **External Conflict** and **2** examples of **Internal Conflict**. For each example, highlight which two entities are at conflict. (4)

*External 1) Person vs Person – Josh vs Trevor. Josh desparately wants to be viewed as mature, but Trevor keeps wanting Josh to act silly as it’s part of their friendship.*

*External 2) Person vs society – Societal expectation is that Josh gets his license because that’s what older people do. The pressure of doing something that he is naturally weak in provides a source of stress for Josh.*

*Internal 1) Josh vs His maturity – Josh wants to have fun, but he also wants to be viewed as and treated as normal. He will have to exercise discipline here*

*Internal 2) Josh vs his Condition – Josh may be autistic, he recognizes his short-comings, but is often unable to avoid them. He is his own worst enemy.*

h. Provide 3 **different** examples of **figurative language** found within the short story and classify each–**EXCLUDING SIMILES**. (6)

*Imagery – “throwing up on the principal’s shoes. Didn’t help that she was in*

*them.”*

*Metaphor – driver’s license means freedom.*

*Repetition – “Oh, yes, yes, yes” This is how Josh shows he’s happy – internal thoughts.*

I. What is the **tone or mood** of the story? Provide a brief explanation, utilizing at least 1 example from the story to support your answer. (5)

*The general mood of this story is light and humourous. The author / narrator isn’t looking back on these events as something that negatively affected him going forward, but as a part of life where there is humour in the frustrations of trying to figure life out.*

j. What is the **mode** of the story? Provide a brief explanation, utilizing at least 1 example from the story to support your answer. (5)

*Exposition – This story is explanatory of how our protagonist realized he had maturity issues. It gives us the background story of how his parents left, despite some concerns, him alone for the weekend and how he chose to act while they were away.*

k. What is the **theme** of the story? Provide a brief explanation, utilizing at least 1 example from the story to support your answer. (5)

*The author wants us to know that sometimes we need to look back on our actions to truly understand what went wrong. That not everything is going to come easy, and sometimes what is getting in the way of us reaching our goals is ourselves.*