

Name(s) _____

Period _____ Due Date ____/____/____

Secondhand Lions & The Secret Lion

“Sometimes the things that may or may not be true are the things a man needs to believe in the most.”

~ Hub, “Secondhand Lions”

“Something got taken away from us that moment. Heaven.”

~ The Narrator, “The Secret Lion”

Essential Guidelines for All Questions:

- state the question you are addressing
- follow the class formatting guidelines
- edit carefully
- cite evidence
- submit as an e-mail attachment or a print-out

NOTE: For parts one through six, please choose just **one** question from that section and answer it in 2 ¶s or less. Please cite evidence from the story and any other applicable source to explain and defend your answer.

Part One: Characterization

1. Who is/are the **protagonist(s)** of “Secondhand Lions”? Who and/or what is/are the **antagonist(s)**?
2. Choose **one** of the three main characters in “Secondhand Lions” (see the list on back). Create a T-chart and identify at least **two** examples of **direct characterization** **two** examples of **indirect characterization** from the film.
3. Identify **two stereotypes** that director/writer Tim McCanlies uses to help us get to know **any two** of the following characters from “Secondhand Lions”: Garth, Hub, Walter & Mae. You may answer in short essay form or make a chart.
4. Identify one **flat character** and one **round character** from either the short story or the film. Explain why you believe your choices fit the criteria for these two types of characters.

Part Two: Irony

5. Identify an example of **situational irony** from the film or short story. How does your example fit the definition of **situational irony**?
6. Identify an example of **verbal irony** from the film or short story. How does your example fit the definition of **verbal irony**?
7. Identify an example of **dramatic irony** from the film or short story. How does your example fit the definition of **dramatic irony**?

Part Three: Plot

8. How does the structure of “Secondhand Lions” compare to the classic literary **plot** line? Illustrate your response by including a graph showing the movie v. the classical plot line.
9. How does the structure of “The Secret Lion” compare to the classic literary **plot** line? Illustrate your response by including a graph showing the short story v. the classical plot line.

Part Four: Point of View

10. Who is telling the story in “Secondhand Lions” and “The Secret Lion”? Is it a **first person narrator** or a **third person narrator**? How would the stories have been affected if a different **point of view** had been used?
11. Compare and contrast the **narrator** in “The Secret Lion” to Walter in “Secondhand Lions.” In what ways are they similar? In what ways are they different?

Part Five: Motivation

12. Assume you're Walter in "Secondhand Lions." What was ***your motivation*** for jumping out of the car and returning to your uncles' ranch? [Answer as if you were writing a note to your mom, Mae.]
13. Assume you're the narrator in "The Secret Lion." What was ***your motivation*** for burying the iron ball? [Answer as if you were writing a diary entry or an e-mail to your friend, Sergio.]

Part Six: Symbolism

14. Identify the use of **symbolism** in "The Secret Lion." Choose what you consider to be a main **symbol** and identify what the **symbol** represents. Why did the author choose to use this **symbol**?
15. Identify the use of **symbolism** in "Secondhand Lions." Choose what you consider to be a main **symbol** and identify what the **symbol** represents. Why did the director choose to use this **symbol**?

HONORS OPTION: Depth Response

Pick **one** of the questions below and address it in an essay or a more creative approach. Depth of thought and meaningful analysis is what counts here, **not hot air or summary**. Whatever you do to address the question, your response must clearly demonstrate your knowledge.

- H1. Storytellers use first impressions to introduce characters. In "Secondhand Lions" we get most of our first impressions of Hub and Garth McCann through Walter's eyes. ***What is Walter's first impression of his uncles?*** Pretend you are Walter, writing a detailed journal entry about the first day of this zany summer vacation. Write a description of Hub and Garth and what you think about spending the whole summer with them. Remember, write it as if you were Walter.
- H2. What **symbolic** meaning does the "lion" have in these two stories? Why did author Alberto Alvaro Ríos choose the title "The Secret Lion"? Why did director Tim McCanlies choose the title "Secondhand Lions"?
- H3. In "Secondhand Lions," we find out a great deal about Hub when Walter finally works up the courage to ask him about Jasmine and whether Garth's stories about their past are true. Later in the film, Walter says this was the most important lesson he learned that summer – the lesson that changed his life. What is the lesson Hub teaches in this episode? Why is it so important to Walter?
- H4. In "The Secret Lion," ***things get taken away*** is a realization that the narrator and Sergio come to as they grow out of childhood. Compile a list of six to 10 more phrases of so-called "words of wisdom" based on what you have learned and what you think these two characters learned. Put these phrases together in a mini handbook for incoming 7th graders to Brier Terrace, Alderwood or Terrace Park. Make sure that each phrase is appropriate, and that you have a sentence or two of explanation for each one. Illustrate it if possible.
- H5. Consider the narrator in "Secret Lion" and Walter in "Secondhand Lions." In what ways does each character traverse the journey from childhood to adulthood – from innocence to experience, as the English poet William Blake so eloquently described? What gets taken away from the narrator in "Secret Lion"? From Walter in "Secondhand Lions"? Is it a paradox that as we gain knowledge through experience, that our innocence is taken away?

"Secondhand Lions"

Released: 2003
 Director: Tim McCanlies
 Writer: Tim McCanlies

Key Characters:

Michael Caine	.....	Garth*
Robert Duvall	.....	Hub*
Haley Joel Osment	.....	Walter* (young)
Kyra Sedgwick	.....	Mae
Nicky Katt	.....	Stan
Josh Lucas	.....	Walter (adult)
Michael O'Neill	.....	Ralph
Deirdre O'Connell	.....	Helen
Eric Balfour	.....	Sheik's grandson

* main character

