

**1. Decide whether the following statements are true or false. (T/F)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. The narrator put some paprika in his father's underpants.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. The narrator was extremely good at playing tricks when he was younger.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. The narrator's parents disapproved of his best friend.
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. The narrator and his friends enjoyed looking at magazines with pictures of naked women in them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ e. The narrator and his friends planned on playing a trick on the bishop's daughter.
- \_\_\_\_\_ f. The narrator and his friends wanted to see Annabelle's breasts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ g. The narrator and his friends were punished for the trick they played on Annabelle.

**2. Answer the following questions in your own words. Paraphrase or summarize what you have read.**

- a. How did the narrator figure out what his son had done?
- b. What was the narrator usually doing at lunch break when he was younger?
- c. What did the narrator and his friends try to get from Jimmy?
- d. How did Tommy practice removing a bikini top?
- e. What did the girls do at first when the boys were jumping in the river?
- f. Why did the narrator tell his son that he was proud of him?



## C. Vocabulary

1. Pick the word or expression that is closest in meaning to the underlined word or expression in the following passages.
  - a. I noticed a peculiar grin on the face of my eleven-year-old boy as I kissed him goodbye.
    - odd
    - slight
    - obvious
    - secret
  - b. It was somewhat mischievous.
    - pious
    - naughty
    - unusual
    - mysterious
  - c. I experienced a subtle itch in my undergarments.
    - disturbing
    - annoying
    - faint
    - uncomfortable
  - d. Leaning against the counter, pondering the possibilities, I remembered something from my childhood that made me reconsider.
    - ignoring
    - listing
    - organizing
    - deliberating
  - e. My prank-loving classmates at elementary school bowed before me and chanted.
    - complained
    - screamed
    - taunted
    - said rhythmically

- f. The hot air seemed to taunt our sense of danger.
- to stun
  - to overwhelm
  - to enrich
  - to mock
- g. Surely all in attendance would check the commotion.
- accident
  - agitation
  - incident
  - fall
- h. Tommy would sneak up behind her.
- place himself
  - approach without her noticing
  - approach suddenly
  - stand quietly
- i. Simultaneously undo her bikini strap and push her into the river.
- surely
  - at the same time
  - in this order
  - slowly
- j. He pushed Carl onto my bed, simulating pushing the subject off the bridge.
- assuming
  - pretending
  - attempting
  - trying
- k. The girls noticed us but, as predicted, ignored our presence.
- usual
  - often
  - foreseen
  - always

1. He would be punished because he sabotaged my undergarments.

- deteriorated
- defiled
- dirtied
- tore

2. Place the following words in the given sentences. Make sure that the word form suits the sentence in which it is used.

<b>dismiss</b>	<b>foresight</b>	<b>vital</b>	<b>execute</b>	<b>blossom</b>
<b>obese</b>	<b>peek</b>	<b>shyly</b>	<b>remorse</b>	<b>diminish</b>

- a. The murderer showed no \_\_\_\_\_ when he was confronted with the widow of the man he had killed.
- b. Susan loves to garden, and she spends her afternoons outside making sure that her flowers get the care they need \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. The teacher saw that Melanie was chatting with her classmate, but he \_\_\_\_\_ it because she is his pet student.
- d. When Peter decided to alter the way the company was working, he had a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ because now his company is very successful.
- e. The children were not allowed to take a look at the bride before she walked down the aisle, but they could not wait any longer and opened the door slowly \_\_\_\_\_ inside.
- f. After giving birth to her twins, Mary never lost any weight. On the contrary, she kept gaining more and more weight in the following three years, and she has now become \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Use the following words and their synonyms and antonyms in your own sentences.

**complicated:**

**Synonyms: complex, difficult, intricate, convoluted, elaborate.**

**Antonyms: simple, clear, plain, lucid, easy, facile.**

**complicated:**

---

---

**intricate:**

---

---

**elaborate:**

---

---

**lucid:**

---

---

**facile:**

---

---

**interfere:**

**Synonyms: meddle, intrude, infringe, impose, trespass, encroach.**

**Antonyms: disregard, ignore, overlook, avoid.**

**interfere:**

---

---

**meddle:**

---

---

**infringe:**

---

---

**disregard:**

---

---

**overlook:**

---

---

## D. Comprehension

1. **Choose the sentences that best explain the following textual excerpts.**
  - a. But I thought nothing of it at the time. (par.1)
    - I did not realize at the time that the smile was mischievous.
    - I did not think at the time that this mischievous smile could have been the sign of something wrong.
    - I did not really evaluate what kind of smile it was at the time.
  - b. I began to realize something was up. (par.2)
    - I began to realize someone was making fun of me.
    - I began to realize that my undergarments were creeping up.
    - I began to realize that something was going on.
  - c. The little bastard had pulled a prank on me. (par.3)
    - The little rascal had played a trick on me.
    - The little boy had lied to me.
    - The little villain was making a fool of me.

- d. I began to consider forms of punishment. (par.4)
- I began to find a good excuse to punish him.
  - I began to think about whether I should punish him.
  - I began to think about how I should punish him.
- e. He or she must pull as many pranks as humanly possible. (par.5)
- He or she must play as many tricks as he or she can.
  - Children must play only tricks that cause no real danger.
  - Children should always compete to see who can play the most tricks on people.
- f. The One True Divine Prankster. (par.6)
- The narrator has won the title in a pranksters' contest.
  - The narrator was such a good prankster that his friends, as a joke, called him the God of pranks.
  - The narrator believed himself to be the most skilled prankster in the world.
- g. I was answering questions for budding pranksters. (par.6)
- I was answering questions for specialized pranksters.
  - I was answering questions for my prank fans.
  - I was answering questions for new pranksters.
- h. He stole *Penthouse* magazines from his father's corner store. (par.7)
- He had to steal the magazines because he couldn't afford to buy them.
  - He had to steal the magazines because they contained adult material.
  - He had to steal the magazines because his father wouldn't let him buy them.
- i. The modest Mirami River somehow balanced us. (par.8)
- The cool river occupied us and prevented us from getting in too much trouble.
  - The river was shallow and we could swim in it safely.
  - The river was our favorite place for pulling pranks.

- j. Then I stumbled upon the information that Annabelle and her friends were going to Knell's Bridge. (par.12)
- I spied on Annabelle and her friends to find out that they were going to the bridge.
  - I overheard that Annabelle was going to go to the bridge with her friends.
  - I found out by accident that Annabelle and her friends were going to the bridge.
- k. Surely all in attendance would check the commotion. (par.14)
- Surely all the girls would be afraid of the commotion.
  - Surely everyone there would want to find out what was happening.
  - Surely pranksters would want to see what would happen.
- l. That Saturday couldn't come quickly enough. (par.20)
- I was so anxious for Saturday to come that it seemed as if time were passing very slowly.
  - I would have enough time to practice the prank before Saturday.
  - I knew that time would pass very quickly and that Saturday would come before I realized it.

**2. Determine the underlying meaning of each of the following excerpts, and choose the sentence that best explains it.**

- a. I remembered something from my childhood that made me reconsider. (par.4)
- I reconsidered the idea of punishing my son.
  - I reconsidered the forms of punishment I had chosen for my son.
  - I reconsidered what I had done in my childhood.
- b. I guess I had a lot of foresight as a child because, oh, did I ever pull pranks! (par.5)
- I must have been an amazing prankster, because I pulled many pranks.
  - I must have known in advance that to enjoy childhood one had to pull as many pranks as possible, because I did pull as many pranks as I could.
  - I must have had a good imagination as a child, because I pulled a lot of pranks.

- c. The sun seemed to blind us from consequences. (par.8)
- The sun prevented us from seeing what we were doing.
  - The heat of the sun prevented us from seeing that what we were doing was wrong.
  - The heat of the sun prevented us from thinking clearly about the aftermath.
- d. His hair got grayer by the week, as his daughter blossomed into womanhood. (par.10)
- The bishop was getting older.
  - The bishop worried more and more as his daughter grew older and more attractive.
  - The bishop had turned gray since his daughter had become a woman.
- e. I literally coached Tommy in the sport of unexpected bikini removal. (par.17)
- I wrote down instructions for Tommy to learn how to remove bikini tops.
  - I demonstrated to Tommy step by step how to remove a bikini top.
  - I explained to Tommy how to remove a bikini top the same way I would explain how to play a sport.
- f. I screamed at the top of my lungs. (par.24)
- I roared.
  - I screamed as loudly as I possibly could.
  - I hurt my lungs screaming so loudly.
- g. My two friends and I stayed in that water until our excitement – well, let's just say diminished. (par.25)
- The narrator and his friends stayed in the water until the chaos was over.
  - The narrator and his friends stayed in the water in order to avoid getting in trouble.
  - The narrator and his friends were sexually aroused.

**3. Writing analysis**

a. Explain the title.

---

---

---

---

b. What kind of personality do you think the narrator has? What makes you think so?

---

---

---

---

c. Do you think this is a good story? Why?

---

---

---

---

d. Do you think the narrator should have focussed more on his son and less on himself? Why?

---

---

---

---

## **E. Discussion**

1. Did this story make you laugh? Why?
2. What do you think of the trick that the narrator and his friends played on Annabelle?
3. Do you think that pulling pranks can be dangerous? How? Why? What could have gone wrong with the trick that the narrator and his friends played on Annabelle?

(END OF SAMPLER)