Fitzgerald

Possible Topics of Questions on Common Assessment

Literary Analysis

* Plot
  + In what part of the plot does the excerpt seem to fall?
  + Initial incident – relating main character, setting, and conflict
    - Is the introduction (exposition, initial incident) effective?
      * meaning does it convey the setting, character, and conflict, as well as grab the reader’s interest
  + Rising action – each paragraph increasing the conflict
  + Climax – point in the plot when the conflict ends very near the end of the story
  + Falling action – 2-5 paragraphs of action after the climax without conflict, just wrapping things up
  + Resolution – the freeze-frame moment at the end of the story that supports the theme and allows the reader to think about the main character moving on after the story
  + Know the order of events
  + Why does X event happen? What does it do for the story?
* Conflict
  + Is it internal or external?
  + Is it character v. self (internal) or character v. character? higher power? technology? society?
  + What specifically is the conflict conveyed in the excerpt?
* Point of View
  + Which point-of view is being used?
    - First-person (I, me, we) – character telling own story
    - Third person – narrator telling story –
      * Limited – only knows thoughts of one character
      * Omniscient – knows thoughts of many characters and can be in more than one place at a time
  + How was this point-of-view helpful to the story?
* Characterization
  + How does the writer convey X about the character?
  + What does X (an action of the character, direct description, another character’s action) convey about the character?
* Setting –
* Is the setting important? What does the setting do for the story?
* Why is this sensory detail (sight, sound, touch, smell) given? What does it do for the story?

Editing (possible corrections to wording to make the story read better) –

* Staying in one tense – all in past or in present
* Providing a transition word so that the reader knows how two events are related
* Fixing a fragment – completing an incomplete thought
* Fixing a run-on – dividing two sentences that are run together into two sentences
* Using a comma correctly
* To separate items in a series
* To separate to whole sentences joined by a conjunction
* After an introductory clause or phrase
* Making sure the subject and the verb agree in number
* Making sure the pronoun agrees with the word it refers to