**Grade 7**

**Three-Minute Friendships**

**PRACTICE TEST**

**Read the following story carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

Of all the days in the week, Mondays are the worst. They are the slowest and most unfriendly. I always feel as if we’ve been out of school for a long vacation, and Monday is the day to come back.

I’m in no hurry to get down to English class. I hate to leave this room. It’s the warmest room in the school. Too bad some of its heat won’t follow me downstairs. The last of the girls are finally going---- down to Room 10.

“You know, I didn’t do any homework this weekend,” boasts Carol. “I didn’t have time.” Several other girls say the same thing.

That’s what I was afraid of, but it’s not a surprise. Carol hardly ever does her homework. That’s the main reason why I’m in no hurry to get down to English. If I wait long enough, Sister Mary Francis may be there. Then Carol won’t be hanging around next to my desk to take a look at my homework.

September was two long months ago. I was kneeling on the floor putting books beneath my desk before the start of history class when Judy stopped at my side. I expected some sort of greeting. Instead she began with, “Say, is that your homework paper? Let me see it for a minute.”

I mumbled an agreement. Then, looking up, I saw that Judy was gone and so was my paper. I motioned to her that I wanted my paper back, but the bell rang. Class began. After ten minutes of watching my paper being passed from one girl to another, I got it back.

Judy was eager to answer homework questions. I looked at my own paper and followed along. Her answers not only started like mine, but also ended like mine. And they had the same words in the middle! A strange feeling hit my stomach. I was disgusted with myself.

Toward the middle of September, it happened again. This time it was Karen who caught me between classes. She ran her finger down the edge of my notebook. Karen wanted a favour, and i knew it. “Let me see your grammar homework for a minute.”

I hesitated. “Come on,” she said, “don’t be such a holy Joe.” That hurt, and I gave in.

The grammar papers came back the next day – mine with a 90 mark on it. Karen had the same. So did her three best friends. Sister Mary Francis talked about the seventh sentence. Everybody seemed to have made the same mistake. Karen winked, and one of her friends smirked at me. I knew what my big mistake was. It made me mad.

There are many days, especially Mondays like today, when I want to leave my homework at home. I want to burn it, drop my notebook behind a radiator – anything to avoid these sweet voices that “just want to take a quick look” at it. I’m sick of these three-minute friendships between bells.

Just about all the girls are down in Room 10 by now. I don’t want to arrive with any time to spare before class begins. Besides, it’s much warmer here on the landing near the radiator. The loud voices from Room 10 make me sick. The bell should ring in a second. I’ll have to go down.

Every step is difficult. I could tell Sister Mary Francis that I don’t feel well. She might send me home. It’s true I don’t feel well, but going home won’t cure me. I’ll just try to slip into the room without being noticed. But Carol notices me.

“Oh, there you are.” The words sting my ears. “Let me see your paper for a second, huh?”

I’ll sit near the radiator. I’m so cold. A tug on my sleeve reminds me that Carol is waiting. Her eyes are impatient.

“No,” I answer, and a chill runs through me.

Her eyes jump up to meet mine. Her hand trembles on my arm. “What did you say?”

“I won’t let you see my paper. Do your own work.”

There. It’s done. I don’t feel sick anymore, but I’m still cold. I need the warm radiator.

**Multiple Choice:** Circle the letter of the correct answer. **(5 marks)**

1. Which month is the story occurring in?

a. September

b. November

c. June

1. Why does the narrator feel sick?
2. The room was cold.
3. Her ears stung.
4. She does not want to share her homework, and is afraid of saying no to the girls.
5. Why does the narrator not want to leave the room?
6. It’s the warmest one in the building.

b. She doesn’t have her homework done.

c. She will have to share her homework with the girls.

1. From which Point of View is the story told?
2. first person
3. second person
4. third person
5. The climax of the story is when:
6. the narrator says “I won’t let you see my paper. Do your own work.”
7. Judy took the narrator’s homework
8. the narrator stood outside the classroom

**Constructed Response:** Answer the following questions on loose leaf. **(10 marks)**

1. Identify and explain the **main conflict** in the story using **proper answer format**.

Be sure to include all the steps for the explain part. **(10 marks)**

**Use the following steps:**

* Re-state question
* Answer all parts (definition and explanation)
* Cite evidence
* Explain quote
* Summary sentence

**Personal Response:** Answer the following question on loose leaf. **(5 marks)**

1. The short story “Three Minute Friendships” teaches us about the importance of standing up to bullies.

**Write a paragraph** in which you describe a situation where you felt the same way as the narrator. Include **details about the situation in the story** and **your thoughts and feelings** about your own **personal experience**. (5 marks)