

Listening & Reading

ANSWER SHEET

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36	longitudive				
37	excessive				
38	maintaining				
39	addressing				
40	allotation				

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Use of English

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1	established		
2	appointed	21	unflattering
3		22	perception
4	response	23	reparations
5	appreciate	24	justify
6		25	overreacted
7	membership	26	unblemished
8	cover	27	relatively
9	refreshments	28	unargued
10	available	29	misconduct
		30	disclose

11	quiet
12	clean
13	break
14	snow
15	low
16	bounds
17	take
18	surely
19	
20	ends

31	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	(J)	K	L
32	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	(H)	I	J	K	L
33	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	(I)	J	K	L
34	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	(L)
35	A	(B)	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
36	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	(K)	L
37	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	(H)	I	J	K	L
38	A	B	C	D	E	(F)	G	H	I	J	K	L
39	A	B	(C)	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
40	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	(J)	K	L
41	A	B	C	D	(E)	F	G	H	I	J	(K)	L
42	A	B	C	D	(E)	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
43	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	(L)
44	(A)	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
45	A	B	C	D	(E)	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
46	A	B	C	(D)	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
47	A	B	C	D	E	F	(G)	H	I	J	K	L
48	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	(I)	J	K	L
49	A	B	C	D	E	(F)	G	H	I	J	K	L
50	A	(B)	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L

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Writing

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Task 1

The science fiction writer, Frederic Brown, is credited to write the shortest story in the world in 1948, which he called "Knock". The story was this: "The last man on Earth sat alone in a room. There was a knock on the door." The story paved the way to a new fashion of writing very short stories.

A collection of stories written in this intriguing manner was published in 1999 by Steve Moss, an editor of the American magazine *New Times*, in the book *The World's Shortest Stories of Love and Death*. Moss carefully selected the best works out of all that participated in a literary competition called *55 Fiction*, which still runs annually in *New Times*. The name "55 Fiction", in my opinion, perfectly describes this new movement in literature. To be considered *55 Fiction*, a work has to have a setting, one or more characters, some conflict, a resolution and fifty-five or fewer words.

The stories in *The World's Shortest Stories of Love and Death* are incredibly diverse. Some stories resemble parables or fables (like "The Search" by Robert Thompkins, in which a man speaks with Truth), while others are more akin to comedy sketches ("In the Garden" by Hope A. Torres shows us a hilarious misunderstanding between two lovers). Some stories give the reader hope and fill them with warm feelings (like "Gratitude" by Andrew E. Hunt, in which a homeless man appreciates the few things in life that he has), while others encourage

Writing

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the reader to look at our world from a different angle and see its imperfections ("Higher Education" by Ron Bast is an excellent example of social satire criticizing the government's neglectful attitude towards education). In this book there is a story for everyone.

In my opinion, *The World's Shortest Stories of Love and Death* proves that brevity is indeed connected with talent. 55 words may just be enough to make the reader feel joy, pain, compassion and a lot more. Personally, I enjoyed this book from start to finish and would gladly recommend it to everyone, regardless of their age, gender and literary preferences.

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words

Task 2.

The last man on Earth sat alone in a room. There was a lock on the door.

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