1. These are some of the important people in Lonnie’s life. After each person’s name, give one or two details to describe or identify that person. Some possible answers are shown.

Miss Edna: foster mom; thinks children should be quiet
Ms. Marcus: Lonnie’s favorite teacher; loves poetry; white
Lili: Lonnie’s little sister; lives far away now
Lonnie’s mom: loving; fun; died in a fire; honeysuckle talc
Lonnie’s dad: big; strong; worked for ConEd; died in a fire

2. Matching: Match each of the following poetry terms with a definition or description. Answers are given on the next page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poetry Terms</th>
<th>Definitions and Descriptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. simile</td>
<td>a. poetry without a set pattern of rhyme and rhythm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. metaphor</td>
<td>b. a poem without rhyming words or unusual line breaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. sensory images</td>
<td>c. a poem that is like a letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. free verse</td>
<td>d. things we can see, hear, touch, taste, or smell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. prose poem</td>
<td>e. sets of just two lines in a poem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. couplets</td>
<td>f. a comparison using “like” or “as”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. haiku</td>
<td>g. a poem with fourteen lines and a strict rhyme pattern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. sonnet</td>
<td>h. a poem of three lines with just seventeen syllables in all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. epistle poem</td>
<td>i. a comparison suggesting that one thing actually is another</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

continued...
3. What happened to Lonnie’s mom and dad? What does Lonnie remember when he thinks about them? Lonnie’s mom and dad were killed in a fire. When Lonnie thinks about them, he feels sad, but he also has good memories. He thinks about their laughter and love. He thinks about his mom’s honeysuckle talc powder smell and her hugs. He thinks about his father’s strong hands and his light blue Con Edison hard hat.

4. Lonnie’s life is not an easy one. What are some of the hard things that have happened to him since his parents passed away? What are some of the things that bother him? After Lonnie’s parents passed away, he lived for a while in a group home, where older boys bullied him. His little sister has been taken somewhere far away from him. His foster mom, Miss Edna, seems to care about him, but she is still pretty strict and sometimes cranky. Lonnie sees people on TV, especially white people, enjoying an easy, comfortable life. It bothers him that his own life is so different from this picture.

Answers to Question # 2:

1. In this section, we have seen a different side of Miss Edna. What shows us that she cares for Lonnie? What shows us her concern for her other sons, who are grown? When Miss Edna and Lonnie go to the grocery store, the cashier thinks Lonnie is Miss Edna’s son. When Miss Edna goes along with that, we can tell she is fond of Lonnie. She also cares for him and prays for him on the anniversary of his parents’ death, when he becomes so upset that he is physically sick. She takes him with her to visit her other son, and she makes sure he is nicely dressed for his visits with Lili. Miss Edna goes to visit one grown son who lives upstate and prays for the other son who is fighting in the war. We can see that even though she is strict and sometimes yells at Lonnie, she has a lot of love for him and her other sons.

2. How does Lonnie’s class treat the new boy? Why do they treat him this way? How does Lonnie feel when he sees the new boy standing in the school yard with his sister? When a new boy joins Lonnie’s class, most of the other kids laugh at him. He speaks differently and he is wearing “country” clothes. However, when Lonnie sees the new boy standing with his sister in the school yard, he feels sad. He thinks about his own sister and how much he misses being with her.

3. What have we learned about Lonnie’s little sister, Lili? Where does she live now? Why does she give Lonnie a Bible? Lonnie’s little sister Lili lives with her “new mama,” who dresses her nicely and doesn’t seem to like Lonnie very much. Lili is very serious and cares a lot for her big brother. She gives him a Bible because she says he needs to find God. Lili thinks that if Lonnie “finds God,” maybe he can be with her.

4. Is Eric a flat or a round character? Explain. Eric is a round character. Usually, Eric is a little bit mean. He makes fun of the new boy. He also makes fun of Lonnie when he finds Lonnie by himself writing. However, there is another side of Eric. At church he sings in the choir, with a voice like an angel’s. He is also nice to Lonnie sometimes; for example, he invites him to play basketball one day in the park. Round characters are characters that have more than one side and are not all good or all bad.

5. What happens when Ms. Marcus gives the class an assignment to write about their families? Why is this ironic? When Ms. Marcus gives the class an assignment to write about their families, Lonnie is the only person not writing. Even Eric and the other boys who don’t like poetry are writing. This is ironic because usually Lonnie is the person in the class who does like writing. He even said that writing is the way he brings his family back to him, like someone pushing the Rewind button.
Selection Review #3

Locomotion

Pages 51 - 74

1. **Who are Lonnie’s close friends? What does he like about them? What annoys him?** Lonnie’s friends are Lamont, Eric, and Angel. He likes playing basketball with them and being part of a group, slapping hands and calling each other “Dog.” However, Lonnie doesn’t like it when his friends show off. He is especially annoyed when they have ideas for poems. He feels special with his poetry writing, and he doesn’t want anyone else to take that from him.

2. **What does Lonnie find out about his friend Eric? How do the poems show his feelings about this situation?** Lonnie finds out that his friend Eric is in the hospital with a serious disease, sickle cell anemia. Lonnie is very upset about this. The poems show how upset he is by using repeated lines and words, such as “Ms. Marcus says... Ms. Marcus says...” Even when Lonnie tries to think of things he loves, his mind comes back to Eric’s disease: “Popsicle/ icicle/ bicycle/ ... sickle cell.”

3. **Who is LaTenya? In the poem “LaTenya,” what makes Lonnie say he “found God”?** LaTenya is the girl that Lonnie likes. In the poem “LaTenya,” we find out that she likes Lonnie too. She tells him that he has pretty eyes and watches him shoot hoops. Lonnie says that he “found God” because he is so happy to learn that she likes him.

4. **The poems “Occasional Poem” and “Eric Poem” show Ms. Marcus feeling discouraged. Why do you think she feels this way? What is she realizing about her students and their lives?** Ms. Marcus feels discouraged because she is learning more about her students’ lives. She is starting to realize how different their lives are from hers. She is white and has a comfortable life, while they are black and most of them have harder lives. She probably wonders how much she can really help them with her teaching. Their problems seem too big for her to deal with.

5. **How does Lonnie feel about Miss Edna in this section? Explain why each of them is happy in “Happiness Poem.”** Although Lonnie doesn’t always get along with Miss Edna, he realizes that “she’s all I got right now.” In “Happiness Poem,” Miss Edna is very happy because her son Rodney is coming home for a while. Lonnie is happy to find out that Miss Edna is not going crazy. She is just acting a little bit crazy because she is so excited.
Selection Review #4

Locomotion

Pages 75 - 100

1. A number of the poems in this section are about Lonnie looking for God. What are some of the problems that Lonnie has with God? What are some things that make him feel God is near? One problem that Lonnie has with God is that he does not always understand the preacher’s words at church or the words in Lili’s Bible. Also, he has questions about God that have not been answered, such as why God let his parents die. Sometimes Lonnie feels like he is just going to church or reading the Bible for Lili’s sake, to make her happy. However, Lonnie also believes that God is at work when good things happen. He sees God in his sister’s good home, in Miss Edna’s cooking, and in Rodney’s big laugh.

2. Miss Edna’s son Rodney has come home. How does this change Lonnie’s life? When Rodney comes home, he treats Lonnie like a brother. He encourages him, goes for walks with him, and shoots hoops with him. Lonnie is very happy to have “Big Brother Rodney” in his life. Rodney does things with Lonnie like a dad would do. He is strong and cheerful and makes Lonnie feel good.

3. What are some of the things that Lonnie has learned about Clyde, the new boy? What shows us that Lonnie and Clyde are becoming friends? Lonnie and his classmates are surprised to learn that Clyde has “magic feet”—great skills with a soccer ball. Lonnie also finds out that Clyde lived in Georgia before. Since Lonnie used to visit Georgia with his parents as a child, he and Clyde can share their memories. We can tell that Lonnie is feeling more friendly, because his last poem about Clyde is titled “Clyde Poem I,” instead of “New Boy Poem” like the earlier ones.

4. How does Lonnie’s friendship with LaTenya change? Why is LaTenya afraid that Lonnie might not want to be friends with her? LaTenya and Lonnie are becoming better friends. LaTenya leaves her girlfriends jumping rope to come and talk with Lonnie. When Lonnie notices a small bump on her hand beside the little finger, LaTenya hides her hands. She used to have extra fingers. She is afraid to tell Lonnie since he might think she is a freak, but Lonnie assures her that he doesn’t feel this way.

continued...
5. Tell about some of the ways that Lonnie has changed since the beginning of the book, and ways that his life has changed. Lonnie has become stronger and more confident since the beginning of this book. He is still sad about his parents’ passing, but he feels that Miss Edna’s house is home. He is glad to have her mother him, and he enjoys having Rodney for a big brother. Lonnie is exploring his relationship with God. He is not living with his sister Lili, but he asked to attend church with her every other week so they can spend some time together afterward. Lonnie is also doing better in school. Both his teacher and his classmates respect his gift for poetry. He has made some new friends, LaTenya and Clyde. Lonnie feels hopeful about his future in spite of the sadness in his past.
1. **Matching:** Match the people listed to the things they say.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People</th>
<th>What They Say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Lonnie’s mom</td>
<td>a. <em>Children should be seen and not heard.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Miss Edna</td>
<td>b. <em>You better not tell Counselor else I’ll beat you down.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Lonnie’s dad</td>
<td>d. <em>Write fast, Lonnie. We’ll worry about line breaks later.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Fill in the blanks using words from the Word Box at left.

- **A haiku is a short poem of just** ___________ **lines.**
- **A** ___________ **has no rhyming words and no unusual line breaks.**
- **___________** is poetry without a set pattern of rhyme and rhythm.
- **Sonnet**s have ___________ **lines and a strict rhyme pattern.**
- **Couplets** are sets of ___________ **lines each.**
- **A poem that is like a letter** is called an ___________ poem.

continued...
3. Read the following excerpt from the poem “Memory.”

Maybe if I was eleven then
and if one of my friends had been around,
I would have been embarrassed, I guess.
But I was just a little kid
and nobody else was around.
Just me and Lili and Mama and the pigeons.
And outside the sun
getting bright and warm suddenly
like it’s been listening in.

Where do you find a sensory detail in this excerpt? Underline it in the poem above.

Then, from the list below, circle the sense(s) that this detail appeals to.

Senses: sight sound touch taste smell

4. What have you enjoyed most about reading Lonnie’s poems? Be specific. How have they changed your ideas about poetry?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
2. Fill in the blanks using words from the Word Box at left. (Hint: you will not use all the words.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word Box</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>implied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>round</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>narrative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ironic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A __________________ poem is a poem that tells a story.

When what happens is the opposite of what you thought or expected, it is an __________________ situation.

____________________ characters have both good and bad sides, and seem like real people.

You have to “read between the lines” of a poem to make inferences about its __________________ meaning.

A __________________ poem describes a person, place, or thing by naming different items that come together to make it what it is.

Name:

Literature Test #2

Locomotion

Pages 25 - 50

1. **Matching:** Match the people listed to the things they say.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People</th>
<th>What They Say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Lili</td>
<td>a. <em>Dear Lord, it’s been four years. How long will he carry this burden?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Miss Edna</td>
<td>b. <em>Shoot hoops with me, Dog. Where you been all day?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Ms. Marcus</td>
<td>c. <em>You found God yet, Lonnie?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Eric</td>
<td>d. <em>Lonnie. Are you writing about your family or just daydreaming?</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

continued...
3. Read the following excerpt from the poem “Me, Eric, Lamont, & Angel,” in which the four boys try to top each other’s tragic stories:

That ain’t no tragedy, Angel says, giving Eric a look.

More than what Lonnie seen, Eric says, grinning at me.

In my head I see a fire. I see black windows.
I hear people hollering. I smell smoke.
I hear a man’s voice saying I’m so sorry.
I hear myself screaming.

Never seen nothing, I say.

Why is the last line of this poem ironic?

4. Choose ONE of the following characters:

Eric      Miss Edna      Ms. Marcus

Explain how the character you chose becomes more of a round character in this section of poems.
Literature Test #3

Locomotion

Pages 51 - 74

1. **Matching:** Match the people listed to the things they say.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People</th>
<th>What They Say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Clyde, the new boy</td>
<td>a. <em>I have some sad news. Eric is in the hospital.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Miss Edna</td>
<td>b. <em>Hip Hop Rules the World. Hey Dog! Guess who else is a poet now!</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Ms. Marcus</td>
<td>c. <em>After all, I thought city people was supposed to be smart.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Lamont</td>
<td>d. <em>My Rodney is coming home for Easter. My Rodney is bringing himself on home for a while.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. In “Eric Poem,” the writer uses parallel lines and repetition. For example:

   *I don’t know,* Ms. Marcus says.
   *His mother doesn’t know yet,* Ms. Marcus says.
   *Let’s hope not long though,* Ms. Marcus says.

Which of the following best describes the mood or feeling created by these lines?

a. irony and implied meanings

b. pain and confusion

c. anger and resentment

continued.....
3. In this section, Ms. Marcus becomes very discouraged as she realizes her students face hard challenges that she hasn’t faced. Which of the following is NOT a reality for them that is unfamiliar to her?

a. worn-out, too-small clothing
b. crime and shooting in the neighborhood
c. too much work and not enough time
d. sickle-cell anemia disease

4. When Lonnie sees Miss Edna dancing with the broom in “Happiness Poem,” at first he thinks she must be losing her mind. Why is Miss Edna so happy? Why is Lonnie happy, too?
1. **Matching:** Match the people listed to the things they say.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People</th>
<th>What They Say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. LaTenya</td>
<td>a. <em>I know Georgia. I know all about those pecans and pine trees.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Lonnie</td>
<td>b. <em>Look at Little Brother Lonnie all growed up. You almost a man now, aren’t you.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Ms. Marcus</td>
<td>c. <em>Used to have extra fingers. You gonna run away now? You gonna call me a freak?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Rodney</td>
<td>d. <em>Maybe one day I’ll see your name in print... You have a gift, Lonnie.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Read the following lines from “Firefly” (page 85):

```
Sometimes
in the park
in the near dark
one comes out
you’ll hear
a little kid shout

*Lightning bug! Firefly!*
```

**Circle the correct answer:** These lines provide an example of...

a. tercets
b. the second person point of view
c. both a and b
d. neither a nor b

*continued...*
3. Lonnie feels good about God when things are going well in his life. What is one thing that he still questions about God?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

4. Lonnie feels more hopeful about his life at the end of this book. What has changed in his family situation? What new friends has he made?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________