1. **In what ways are Philip’s and Miss Narwin’s views of one another inaccurate?** Both Philip and Miss Narwin have judged one another too harshly. Miss Narwin is a serious, straight-laced teacher, and Philip considers her cheerless because she never smiles and doesn’t laugh at his jokes. He considers the books he must study in her class boring, and so considers Miss Narwin boring also. Because of his poor performance in English class and Miss Narwin’s strictness, Philip thinks she is mean and says she “has it in for him.” Miss Narwin, however, does not view Philip as an enemy. She recognizes that she has difficulty interesting some students in literature and wants to learn how to reach them. She, however, also has misconceptions of Philip. She is wrong when she says that Philip has no ambition or desire to learn. Philip is very ambitious about running track. He spends a lot of time each day running and exercising to improve his ability and dreams of competing in the Olympics. He also wants to learn, but this desire doesn’t include literature. He gets As in math and reasonable grades in his other classes. He reads on his own when the subject is of interest to him.

2. **In a Venn diagram like the one below, list ways in which Miss Narwin and Philip Malloy are alike and different.**

![Venn Diagram]

- **MISS NARWIN**
  - Serious
  - Weary
  - Acknowledges some responsibility for her problems

- **PHILIP**
  - Funny
  - Restless
  - Acknowledges no responsibility for his problems

- **BOTH**
  - Not completely honest
  - Resentful
  - Want to be successful
  - Frustrated

*continued...*
3. Explain why Philip is sent to Dr. Palleni’s office. How have both Miss Narwin and Philip mishandled the incident? Philip has been sent to the assistant principal’s office for humming the “Star-Spangled Banner” in Miss Narwin’s homeroom. Philip has mishandled the incident by not being honest about why he did it. He wants to annoy his teacher enough to be transferred out of her class, but he hints that she does not allow him to express his patriotism. Miss Narwin, on the other hand, is overreacting. She is frustrated at Philip’s performance in class and this leads her to show no leniency toward him. Neither has tried to see things from the other’s point of view, and they have not discussed their conflict with one another.

4. How is Mr. Malloy like Philip? How has he failed to help Philip with his problems at school? Like Philip at school, Mr. Malloy refuses to take any responsibility for his problems at work. Like Philip, he is afraid to confront the situation directly. He refuses to talk to his boss about how he views the work situation, just as Philip has not spoken to Miss Narwin about his problems in her class. Mr. Malloy sides completely with Philip in the “Star-Spangled Banner” incident and makes no attempt to learn the teacher’s side of the story. He tells Philip that he has done the correct thing and has no need to change. Mr. Malloy fails to get to the root of Philip’s problem or challenge him to accept responsibility for his behavior.

5. Explain the irony in the novel’s title, Nothing But the Truth. The title Nothing But the Truth is ironic because dishonesty and/or unwillingness to confront the truth have caused or deepened conflicts in the novel. In other words, “nothing but the truth” is needed, but not present.
Selection Review #2

Nothing But the Truth

Pages 71 - 142

1. **What is satire? Explain how *Nothing But the Truth* is a satire.** Satire is a type of literature that ridicules human faults, usually written to inspire improvements in society. *Nothing But the Truth* is a satire because the author uses humor throughout the novel to point out problems in the way people think and act. The author satirizes the way people take the same facts and interpret them in completely different ways. He points out the serious consequences of failures in communication. He also ridicules the way people distort the truth to their own gain. Through the comical mishandling of information in this novel, the author criticizes the media, politicians, school officials, and ordinary people.

2. **Why isn’t Dr. Seymour interested in getting at the truth in the “Star-Spangled Banner” incident?** Dr. Seymour says that the truth of a matter is not as important as the public’s perception of it. Dr. Seymour is not concerned with finding out the true reasons for Philip’s suspension, but with smoothing things over so the school budget will pass in the upcoming election.

3. **How can a news reporter’s account be an accurate summary of information and yet still be far from the truth? How is this true in Jennifer Stewart’s account of the “Star-Spangled Banner” incident?** A news reporter’s account can be an accurate summary of the information gathered but still be false if the reporter fails to gather information about all sides of the issue. This was the case in Jennifer Stewart’s report. Her news article was a fair summary of the information she received, but she failed to obtain information from the school’s point of view, so her story was not the truth.

4. **Dr. Seymour is not the only character who has no desire to get to the truth in the “Star-Spangled Banner” incident. Name two other characters who might not be interested in the full truth, and tell why.** Possible answers are as follows. Ted Griffen is not interested because he is using the current story to help win him a seat on the school board. Philip is not interested because he needs a reason to be transferred to another class. Jake Barlow is not interested because the current story is a provocative topic for his talk show.

5. **Which character, if any, has a correct view of the incident that occurred between Philip and Miss Narwin?** No one has a totally correct view of what occurred in the classroom, not even Miss Narwin and Philip. Their accounts differ based on their own viewpoints. Even after all that has occurred, neither of these characters sees the incident any differently. All other characters’ views of the incident are based on either Philip’s or Miss Narwin’s version of the events and are also inaccurate.
1. Explain how and why both Dr. Doane and Dr. Seymour rewrite the memo about the "Star-Spangled Banner" incident. Cite specific examples of the changes in your answer. When Dr. Doane rewrites the memo, she exaggerates and distorts facts to try to be more convincing about Philip's guilt in the matter. She changes and adds statements to protect herself and the school's administration. She says that Philip “drew attention to himself” through his singing and “deliberately” caused a disturbance. Neither of these claims is clearly supported by evidence. She attempts to clear the school administration of any wrongdoing by stating that no disturbance had ever before occurred. She also adds that the referral to Dr. Palleni was “standard procedure” and that Philip “chose” the option of suspension. She changes the statement that Dr. Palleni followed the guidelines of the principal to say that the guidelines were approved by the school superintendent to protect herself and shift any blame to the superintendent.

Dr. Seymour changes the memo to emphasize the patriotism of the Harrison school district and portray Philip as a mocker of patriotism. He adds that Miss Narwin is a teacher of twenty years to boost her image and adds negative details to Philip’s description to cast doubt on his character. Like Dr. Doane, he changes the statement about the guidelines to say that they were approved by the school board, clearing himself and shifting any blame to the board.

2. Explain the agreement between Dr. Seymour and Ted Griffen. Tell each one’s reason for making the agreement. Dr. Seymour decides to portray Miss Narwin as an incompetent teacher and remove her from the classroom temporarily so that people will stop criticizing the school district. In exchange, Ted Griffen announces his support for the school budget. Griffen hopes to gain votes by taking credit for exposing and solving the “Star-Spangled Banner” incident crisis. Dr. Seymour hopes that Griffen’s support of the budget and the end of the bad publicity will help the budget to pass. However, the budget does not pass, but Ted Griffen is elected to a seat on the school board.

3. Why is Philip unhappy at Harrison High? Do you think he'll be any happier at Washington Academy? Explain your answer. Philip is unhappy at Harrison High because many students and teachers are angry with him because of the way Miss Narwin’s reputation has been damaged by the “Star-Spangled Banner” incident. He is also unhappy because he still cannot try out for the track team. He is no longer in Miss Narwin’s English class and the track coach indicates that it is too late for him to ask for favors. He will not be any happier at Washington Academy because there is no track team, and he is expected to live up to his false reputation as a great American patriot.

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4. Explain how Miss Narwin and Philip have changed since the beginning of the story. Tell how they are the same. Both Miss Narwin and Philip were mildly unhappy with their situations at the beginning of the story. Both of them have become much more resentful and are now very unhappy. They have not changed in that neither has a better understanding of the other, and neither sees the situation more clearly than when the “Star-Spangled Banner” incident first occurred. Neither has any sympathy for what the other has endured. Neither accepts responsibility for what has occurred, and each one sees everything from his or her own point of view.

5. Why did the author choose to write a serious ending to this humorous novel? What are the novel’s themes? The author gave this story a serious ending to emphasize the negative consequences of misunderstanding, miscommunication, and deceit. Instead of creating a plot in which the characters learn from their mistakes and change for the better, the story ends with sad, resentful characters who must live with the consequences of their own mistakes and the mistakes of many others. This conclusion has a strong impact because Nothing But the Truth is a humorous story, and the reader hopes for a happy ending. Two of the novel’s themes are, “Twisting the truth to suit one’s own purposes is a serious mistake,” and, “People who have authority or influence are just as likely to twist the truth as anyone else.”
1. Explain how Miss Narwin and Philip Malloy have incorrect views of one another.

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2. Comment on the irony of the novel’s title.

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3. What is the “Star-Spangled Banner” incident? How do both Miss Narwin and Philip mishandle this situation?

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Literature Test #2

Nothing But the Truth

Pages 71 - 142

1. Explain why Nothing But the Truth is a satire.

2. Explain why some characters are not concerned with finding out the whole truth in the “Star-Spangled Banner” incident. Give at least two specific examples.
3. Explain why the news article written by Jennifer Stewart is not a good one.

4. Explain why no character has a completely true account of what occurred in the “Star-Spangled Banner” incident.
Literature Test #3

Nothing But the Truth

Pages 143 - 212

1. Describe some of the changes Dr. Doane and Dr. Seymour made to the memo about the “Star-Spangled Banner” incident. Tell why the changes were made.

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2. Explain how Dr. Seymour and Ted Griffen work together at the end of the novel. What does each hope to gain from the partnership?

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continued...
3. Explain the irony of Philip's first day at Washington Academy.

4. Why does the author end *Nothing But the Truth* on a serious note? State one of the novel's themes.
Vocabulary Test #1

Nothing But the Truth

Pages 1 - 70

WRITE SENTENCES FOR THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

contemporary                  potential                  leisurely

controversial                 reluctantly                  vigilant

Name:
Vocabulary Test #2

Nothing But the Truth

Pages 71 - 142

WRITE SENTENCES FOR THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

arbitrary
condone
confidential
obscure
Vocabulary Test #3

Nothing But the Truth

Pages 143 - 212

WRITE SENTENCES FOR THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

emphatically rational resign
prohibits equitable candid

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