

COLLECTION 1 SUMMATIVE TEST

Plot: Moments of Truth

This test asks you to use the skills and strategies you have learned in this collection. Read "The Grand Inquisitor," and then answer the questions that follow it.

The Grand Inquisitor by Nina Jaffe and Steve Zeitlin

Once, in the city of Seville, someone committed a terrible crime, and no one knew who did it. Looking around for a person to blame, the Grand Inquisitor decided that the Jews must be at fault. Of all the Jews in Seville, he decided to go after Rabbi* Pinkhes, head of the largest congregation in the city. Rabbi Pinkhes was the man the Jews listened to and respected the most. If he was convicted, the Jews would surely suffer.

The Grand Inquisitor put the rabbi on trial and tried to convince a jury that he was guilty. The jury said that there was not a shred of evidence to support this charge. But there was no stopping the Grand Inquisitor. He came up with a new plan to convict the wise man.

"We will put this matter before God," he said. "The fairest way to decide this is to draw lots. I will place two rolled-up pieces of paper in a box. One will say 'guilty,' the other 'not guilty.' If the esteemed rabbi picks the piece that reads 'guilty,' it will be a sign that he and all the Jews are guilty as charged. The rabbi will be executed on the spot. If he draws the piece that says 'not guilty,' we will have to let him go." But the Grand Inquisitor was a wicked man. He wanted to see the rabbi dead and was not about to let him go. The rabbi knew this and suspected that the cunning Inquisitor would write "guilty" on both pieces of paper.

The Grand Inquisitor laughed wickedly and told the rabbi, "Now, pick one."

Rabbi Pinkhes knew the Grand Inquisitor well. He smiled at the gloating judge. "How kind of you," he said, "to allow me a chance to go free. How fair and just to leave this matter up to God." Then he quickly reached into the box, drew out a piece of paper, and before anyone could tell what he was doing, swallowed it!

"Why did you do that?" exclaimed the Inquisitor. "Now we will never know which piece of paper you drew. This is sure death for you."

"I was inspired by God to swallow the paper to prove my innocence! If you have any doubt, any doubt whatsoever," said the rabbi, "just look at the piece of paper in the box. If it says 'not guilty,' then the one I swallowed must have said 'guilty.' But if it says 'guilty,' why, that must mean that the one I swallowed said 'not guilty.'"

The Grand Inquisitor gulped. Try as he might, he could not find a reason to disagree. So he reached into the box and read what the piece of paper said. Just as the rabbi suspected, it said "guilty."

"You see?" said the rabbi. "The one I swallowed must have said 'not guilty.'" The Grand Inquisitor's face turned red with rage, but he had to set the rabbi free.

*Rabbi: Jewish religious and community leader.

For centuries, large numbers of Jewish people lived in the city of Seville, in Spain. By 1378, Seville had twenty-three beautiful synagogues and had become a center for Jewish learning. But in the fifteenth century, the kings and queens of Spain were trying to unite their land and make it a Catholic country. They forced many Jews to convert to Christianity on pain of death. Some were killed, but others continued to practice their religion in secret.

Consequently, in 1480 Spaniards began the Spanish Inquisition to investigate these false converts. Any Jews who were still practicing their religion secretly were to be burned at the stake.

To put this cruel policy into action, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella appointed inquisitors all over Spain. Many Jews were killed, and in 1492 those remaining were expelled from Spain.

In 1991 the government of Spain honored and apologized to the Sephardic Jews it had expelled five centuries before.

VOCABULARY SKILLS (25 points; 5 points each)

For each sentence below, select the word or phrase that provides the *best* meaning for the underlined word. Write the letter of the meaning in the space provided.

- _____ 1. If you are a part of a congregation, you are a —
- A legislator
 - B volunteer
 - C worshiper
 - D citizen
- _____ 2. If a jury has decided to convict a person of a crime, they have decided that —
- F the person is guilty of the crime
 - G the person should be set free
 - H the person should be sentenced to death
 - J the person must spend the rest of his or her life in prison
- _____ 3. A highly esteemed person is a person who is —
- A quick to get angry
 - B full of self-confidence
 - C honored by society
 - D somewhat liked by others

- _____ 4. People who are cunning are —
- F emotionally sensitive
 - G hopelessly naive
 - H cleverly sly
 - J horribly obnoxious
- _____ 5. If you have been arguing with your sister and she is now gloating, your sister is —
- A miserable that she has lost the argument
 - B delighted that she has won the argument
 - C fed up with arguing with you
 - D crying on the floor because she didn't get her way

COMPREHENSION (25 points; 5 points each)

On the line provided, write the letter of the *best* answer to each of the following items.

- _____ 6. The Grand Inquisitor blames the Jews for the crime that has been committed because he —
- F hates the Jews
 - G has a witness that says the rabbi committed the crime
 - H has evidence that proves their guilt
 - J had a dream that the Jews were to blame
- _____ 7. Why does the Grand Inquisitor come up with his own plan to convict Rabbi Pinkhes?
- A He likes his own plan better than everyone else's plan.
 - B The jury won't convict the rabbi since there is no evidence.
 - C The rabbi is planning to get the Grand Inquisitor in trouble.
 - D The Grand Inquisitor is the only person with the legal power to make a plan.
- _____ 8. What did the wise rabbi predict that the Grand Inquisitor would do?
- F He would burn the other lot before the witnesses could see what was written on it.
 - G He would not write anything on the lots as a trick.
 - H He would write "not guilty" on both lots.
 - J He would write "guilty" on both lots.
- _____ 9. What did the rabbi do with the lot that he chose?
- A He ripped it up.
 - B He threw it away.
 - C He swallowed it.
 - D He stepped on it.

- _____ 10. All of the following are reasons why the Grand Inquisitor had to set the rabbi free *except* —
- F the Grand Inquisitor had made a public promise
 - G people put pressure on the Grand Inquisitor
 - H he could not prove that the rabbi's lot said "guilty" on it
 - J the Grand Inquisitor had no other choice

READING SKILLS AND STRATEGIES: CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE (30 points; 10 points each)

Making Inferences

11. What did Rabbi Pinkhes need to infer in order to save himself? How did his ability to make inferences help him?

Retelling

12. In your own words, explain what the Grand Inquisitor's plan is and how events in the plot unfold.

Evaluating

13. The Grand Inquisitor believes the fairest way to establish the rabbi's guilt or innocence is to draw lots. Evaluate this plan. What makes it fair or unfair in your opinion?

LITERARY FOCUS: CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE (20 points)

14. The rabbi in this story lived in a time and place when Jews were often persecuted. In the chart below, describe what the setting of the story is by identifying the place and time. In the middle column, explain what problem drives the plot of the story. In the third column, explain how the problem is resolved.

Setting	Problem or Conflict	Resolution