

Dandelion Wine Final Exam

Multiple choices

- This section is worth 24 points
- Circle the correct answer for each question

1. What year is described in the book?
 - A. 1926
 - B. 1928
 - C. 1927
 - D. 1929
2. Who is “The Time Machine?”
 - A. Grandpa Spaulding
 - B. Great-grandpa Spaulding
 - C. Colonel Freeleigh
 - D. Helen Loomis
3. Who sells Douglas his shoes?
 - A. Mr. Sanderson
 - B. Mr. Tridden
 - C. Mr. String
 - D. Mrs. Bentley
4. Who says that you “live on” in your family?
 - A. Colonel Freeleigh
 - B. Helen Loomis
 - C. Mr. Sanderson
 - D. Great-grandma Spaulding
5. Who moves to Milwaukee?
 - A. John Huff
 - B. Charlie Woodman
 - C. Helen Loomis
 - D. Bill Forrester
6. Who sees the past and the future in the patterns on the rug?
 - A. Tom
 - B. Mother
 - C. Douglas
 - D. Grandma Spaulding
7. Who builds “The Happiness Machine?”
 - A. Lena Auffmann
 - B. Leo Auffmann
 - C. Grandpa Spaulding
 - D. Great-grandpa Spaulding
8. Who takes Douglas and Tom into the forest to pick fox grapes?
 - A. Grandpa Spaulding

- B. Mother
- C. John Huff
- D. Father

9. Where does Colonel Freeleigh call on the day of his death?

- A. Buenos Aires
- B. Mexico City
- C. New York
- D. Chicago

10. Where does the book take place?

- A. Green Town
- B. Red Town
- C. Wine Town
- D. Light Town

11. How old is Tom?

- A. Nine
- B. Eight
- C. Ten
- D. Eleven

12. How old is Douglas?

- A. Ten
- B. Nine
- C. Eleven
- D. Twelve

Essay questions

- This section is worth 15 Points
- Read each question and provide a clear, concise answer
- Write full, complete sentences

13. *Dandelion Wine* chronicles the summer of a young boy, but there are many other older characters in the book. What role do the older people play in the story? What lessons do they provide? Other than age, how are they different from the younger characters?

14. Fear and acceptance, happiness and sadness, and life and death are all prominent themes in *Dandelion Wine*. What are some lessons that Douglas and Tom learned throughout their summer?

15. Is *Dandelion Wine* a realistic novel? Does Douglas represent every boy his age? Why or why not? Defend your answer.

An Explanation

The “*Dandelion Wine* Final Exam” assessed my students’ understanding of the characters, the events, and the themes of *Dandelion Wine*.

To my surprise, most of my students didn’t enjoy reading *Dandelion Wine*. In my estimation, Bradbury’s narrative is challenging—and most of my students don’t enjoy challenges. I noticed early on that most of my students couldn’t relate to Douglas Spaulding or any of the other characters. Finding relevance became my challenge.

I used this assessment tool in order to evaluate how much information my students remembered from the text. This tool included a multiple choices section and a short essay section, which provided variety for my students.

Fewer students took the “*Dandelion Wine* Final Exam” than the “Vocabulary Test,” “*Dandelion Wine* Quiz No. 1,” or “*Dandelion Wine* Quiz No. 2.” Some students dropped the course before taking the “*Dandelion Wine* Final Exam;” other students were absent; some students skipped the class; and one student refused to take the test.

Strengths:

- The “*Dandelion Wine* Final Exam” is comprehensive, but not too daunting
- This assessment tool includes two sections (i.e. variety)
- The questions are easy to understand
- The questions are not “easy” or “difficult” (unless you didn’t read the novel)

Weaknesses:

- Most students missed questions 1, 10, and 12 (perhaps a review would have helped)
- The first 12 questions are not critical thinking questions
- This assessment tool does not include a vocabulary section*

The “*Dandelion Wine* Final Exam” was worth 39 points.

*I had created a “Vocabulary” section...but I lost the original file when my computer froze.