“The Scarlet Ibis” by James Hurst

**ANSWER SHEET**

**DIRECTIONS:** Check your answers to each of the following questions and use your sheet to prepare for tomorrow’s test!

1. **Protagonist:** NARRATOR (DOODLE’S BROTHER)
2. **Antagonist:** DOODLE
3. **Conflict(s):** PERSON VS. PERSON / PERSON VS. SELF
4. **Point of View:** FIRST PERSON (PROTAGONIST)
5. **Setting:** COASTAL NORTH CAROLINA, 1912-1918

6. The time of year that the narrator describes the opening of the story is between **SUMMER AND FALL**.

7. What does the narrator use to symbolize the passage of time? **A GRINDSTONE**

8. Why do Doodle’s parents name him William Armstrong? **THEY THINK IT SOUNDS FORMAL AND GRAND.**

9. What does the narrator think of his brother in the early months of his life? **HE IS DISAPPOINTED.**

10. What did the narrator plan to do when told that Doodle might not be “all there”? **KILL HIM—SMOTHER HIM WITH A PILLOW.**

11. When does Doodle become a part of the family? **WHEN HE CRAWLS**

12. Why was renaming Doodle the “kindest thing” the narrator ever did for his brother? **IT CAUSES PEOPLE TO EXPECT LITTLE FROM HIM AND MAKE EVEN HIS SMALLEST ACHIEVEMENTS SEEM VERY IMPORTANT.**

13. Are the narrator’s attempts to teach Doodle to walk successful? **YES**

   If so, what is the reason he learns to walk? **THE NARRATOR TEACHES HIM TO WALK SO HE WILL NO LONGER BE AS MUCH OF AN EMBARRASSMENT.**

14. What does the narrator believe will happen when he teaches Doodle to walk? **THE NARRATOR BELIEVES DOODLE CAN LEARN TO DO OTHER THINGS AS WELL.**

15. What does the narrator say has two sides, a good and a bad side? **PRIDE**

16. Where do the narrator and Doodle have their best times? **OLD WOMAN SWAMP**

17. What kinds of lies does Doodle tell? **LIES ABOUT BIRDS AND PEOPLE WITH WINGS THAT FLY WHEREVER THEY WANT TO GO.**
18. What does the narrator create for Doodle after teaching him to walk? A DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Does he tell his parents about this plan? NO

19. How does Doodle resemble the scarlet ibis? BOTH DIE WHEN FORCED TO LIVE IN A WAY THEY WERE NOT MEANT TO

20. How does the ibis falling from the tree and dying resemble Doodle’s fate? HE DIES UNDER A TREE

21. What happens when the two brothers race home to beat the storm? DOODLE TRIES TO KEEP UP BUT FALLS BEHIND AND CRIES NOT TO BE LEFT ALONE


23. What is the one thing Doodle always asks of his brother? TO NOT BE LEFT BEHIND

24. When does the narrator tell his story? MANY YEARS AFTER THE EVENTS OCCURRED

25. What is the narrator’s primary conflict? DOODLE’S INABILITY TO BE LIKE OTHER BOYS HIS AGE

26. Was the narrator ever mean to his brother? YES If so, does he admit it? YES

27. What is the central conflict in “The Scarlet Ibis”? THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN TWO BROTHERS AS WELL AS THE NARRATOR’S STRUGGLE TO UNDERSTAND HIS OWN CRUELTY AND PRIDE

28. The narrator says that people are often cruel to those they love. What is the best example from the story of the narrator’s cruelty to Doodle? THE NARRATOR SHOWS NO MERCY WHEN HE IS ASHAMED THAT DOODLE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH THE OTHERS AT SCHOOL.

29. The following statement is an example of the use of FIGURATIVE language.

“The smell of the graveyard flowers softly says the names of the dead.”

30. What is the main subject of “The Scarlet Ibis”? PRIDE

How can this subject best be restated as a theme for this story? PERSONAL PRIDE CAN DESTROY THOSE WE LOVE.