

Writing and Language SAT Practice Test 32

Blood Ties

William Faulkner is one of the most highly recognized American authors of all time. He is celebrated for his use of "stream of consciousness" writing to give life to Southern U.S. culture, and 34 was considered one of the best people ever to put pen to paper. While *The Sound and the Fury* and *As I Lay Dying* are some of Faulkner's best known novels, his plethora of short stories are perhaps lesser known 35 because of a lack of public awareness about them. A particular short story, "Barn Burning," tells the story of Colonel Sartoris Snopes, a young protagonist who struggles to develop into his own man under his father's malevolent eyes. Colonel Sartoris, or "Sarty," is trapped in a world stricken by fear, grief, and misery. 36 While physically similar and often volatile like his father, Sarty is continually faced with the paradox of detesting the man who raised him, while also feeling an inherent fidelity to him. Sarty's personal growth is stunted by this ubiquitous inconsistency in his character.

Sarty's father, Abner, is a rigid man—set in his ways and seemingly vengeful toward everyone outside of his own family. Constantly unhappy, Abner 37 lauds anyone who surpasses him in joy, health, or wealth. 38 He is particularly fond of offending and stealing from others. He then likes to burn the barns of those who dare to question his conduct. Interestingly, Faulkner first introduces Sarty at his father's trial where he is accused of burning a local farm. It is through Sarty's inner toil 39 which the reader becomes distinctly aware of Abner's guilt. Rather than being oblivious to his father's evil disposition, Sarty wishfully, and somewhat naively, hopes that his father will 40 overcome it. The story continues not as a battle for integrity within Abner, but within Sarty, who must choose the man he is to become.

Sarty's internal conflict is 41 made more challenging by the fact that he has to remain faithful to his kin and a fear of the consequences in turning away from them. Throughout the short piece, Sarty becomes almost two separate characters, his thoughts as divided as his loyalty. On certain occasions, he is brutally ashamed of his 42 father's deceit, on others he overcompensates for his treachery by defending his father at all costs.

[1] 43 So it comes as little shock to the reader when his father decides to burn the barn of his newest employers. [2] When enlisted to help with the crime, Sarty weighs his options, hesitant to disobey his father. [3] Eventually, Sarty betrays his father by revealing the plan. [4] Sarty's act of defiance allows him to make a character transition and wholly resist the life his father has led. [5] This story is a beautiful portrayal of a conflicted heart and its battle to follow its own path. 44

34. Which choice would give the most logical and specific support to the assertion made in the first sentence of the passage?

- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. was thought of as a true American hero, not in the traditional, but literary sense.
 - C. was revered as one of the best executors of the "stream of consciousness" style.
 - D. was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1949.
35. What should be done with the underlined portion?

- A. Keep it, because it provides a relevant clarification.
 - B. Keep it, because it gives specific evidentiary support.
 - C. Delete it, because it repeats an assertion.
 - D. Delete it, because it is inconsistent with the other information in the paragraph.
- 36.

- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. While physically similar, and often, volatile, like his
 - C. While physically similar, and often volatile like his
 - D. While physically similar and often, volatile like his
37. Which word would most likely capture Abner's mentality based on the context?

- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. invokes
 - C. despises
 - D. reveres
38. Which choice provides the best combination of the underlined sentences?

- A. He is particularly fond of offending and stealing from others, and then burning the barns of those who dare to question his conduct.
 - B. He is particularly fond of offending and stealing from others; subsequently, he enjoys the process of the burning of the barns of those who dare to question his conduct.
 - C. In particular, he is quite fond of the stealing and offending of others, while he also has an affinity for burning the barns of those who question what he has chosen to do.
 - D. To a large degree, he enjoys the acts of stealing and offending; burning is also something he considers a pastime.
- 39.

- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. from
 - C. for
 - D. that
- 40.

- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. overcome these.
 - C. overcoming this.
 - D. overcoming those.
- 41.

- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. pretentiously made more oppressive
 - C. complicated by a desire
 - D. OMIT the underlined portion.
- 42.

A. NO CHANGE

B. fathers deceit: on others he

C. father's deceit; on others, he

D. fathers' deceit-on others, he

43. Which choice provides the best transition from the theme of the previous paragraph to the topic of this new paragraph?

A. NO CHANGE

B. Sarty has little difficulty deciding what to do

C. Therefore, the accumulated lies of his father surprise Sarty

D. Perhaps the best illustration of Sarty's divided nature is

44. To make the previous paragraph most logical, sentence 4 should be placed

A. where it is now.

B. before sentence 2.

C. before sentence 3.

D. after sentence 5.