

“The Perfect Touch”

NAME _____ PERIOD _____

CLOZE ACTIVITY

DATE _____ SCORE _____

DIRECTIONS: Fill in the blanks with words or phrases that complete the sentence according to the meaning in the story.

David is (1) _____ driving his automobile, and Rob, the (2) _____, is concerned about his speed on the (3) _____ road. On their ride they happen upon a (4) _____ house. They decide to go inside and look around. When they get inside, they hear (5) _____ coming from upstairs. They go upstairs and find the dripping, but, before they can (6) _____, they become frightened and run back to the car.

Later, while (7) _____ home, Rob tells David that he is thinking of taking Susan, his girlfriend (David's former girlfriend) up to the house. She has been (8) _____ about the harassing phone calls she has received from an anonymous caller who calls himself The Guardian (9) _____. Rob feels it is her (10) _____ that is hurting her rather than the calls. He thinks that if Susan experiences the (11) _____ house, she might realize her fear is laughable. Perhaps then she would no longer fear the (12) _____. The boys set up the experiment.

A few nights later, Rob drives Susan up to the house. Once at the (13) _____, Rob and Susan go into the house. David, who has been (14) _____ in the back seat of the car, dresses up like a (15) _____. When Rob and Susan come out of the house, David (16) _____ Susan into a trance. Remorseful, David blurts out that he has been the anonymous (17) _____. He (18) _____, and Susan “comes to,” revealing that she was only pretending to be in a (19) _____. We learn that Rob and Susan had suspected David all along, and they had plotted the haunted house escapade to see if they could (20) _____ David into revealing that he was “The Guardian Angel.”

ANSWER CHOICES FOR CLOZE ACTIVITY

“The Perfect Touch”

- | | | | | |
|------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| (1) | carefully | recklessly | slowly | hardly |
| (2) | brother | mechanic | hitchhiker | passenger |
| (3) | bumpy | curving | smooth | straight |
| (4) | burning | beautiful | haunted | one story |
| (5) | laughing | talking | music | dripping |
| (6) | investigate | find it | hear it | get away |
| (7) | walking | running | eating | driving |
| (8) | happy | upset | befriended | laughing |
| (9) | Caller | Avenger | Angel | Phantom |
| (10) | laziness | fear | hope | work |
| (11) | fun | white | weird | green |
| (12) | school work | phone calls | neighbors | classes |
| (13) | river | mountain | cafe | house |
| (14) | hiding | playing | sleeping | sitting |
| (15) | kangaroo | phantom | ghost | monster |
| (16) | moves | beats | frightens | drives |
| (17) | phone caller | friend | enemy | neighbor |
| (18) | faints | leaves | gets in | drives away |
| (19) | uproar | mood | trance | faint |
| (20) | trick | bully | threaten | bribe |

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NAME _____ PERIOD _____

SEQUENCE ACTIVITY

DATE _____ SCORE _____

DIRECTIONS: The following incidents happened in the play, but they are not in the correct sequence. Number them in the order that they occurred.

- David makes the car shake.
- Susan and Rob go into the old house.
- David says he will walk back home and leaves.
- Rob looks for the flashlight in the glove compartment.
- Rob and David decide to take Susan to the old house.
- David is driving too fast on an unfamiliar road.
- David and Rob run down the stairs.
- Susan goes into a trance.
- David and Rob go upstairs.
- David and Rob hear dripping.
- David makes the car's hood fly up.
- Rob and Susan come out of the old house.
- David admits making scary phone calls to Susan.
- Rob picks up Susan to go for a ride.
- Rob and David go into the old house.
- Susan looks for the maps.
- David gets out of the back seat and hides.

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COMPREHENSION ACTIVITY

DATE _____ SCORE _____

DIRECTIONS: Answer the following questions about “The Perfect Touch.” Give your answers in complete sentences.

1. Why is Rob frightened of David's driving? _____

2. Where is the haunted house located? _____

3. What do the boys hear when they enter the house? _____

4. Why have Susan's grades been falling? _____

5. Why do the boys decide to bring Susan to the house? _____

6. When Rob drives Susan to the house, where is David? _____

7. What does David do at the haunted house that finally frightens Susan into a trance? _____

8. Why did Susan and Rob trick David? _____

9. Why had David been calling Susan? _____

10. How does Rob get David to come to the haunted house? _____

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VOCABULARY ACTIVITY SHEET 1

DATE _____

SCORE _____

DIRECTIONS: Write the number of the word's definition next to the word. The meanings (definitions) are those from the story.

Word	Definition
1. re-create	_____ covering up, changing
2. rarely	_____ without dread
3. dictated	_____ definite, completely
4. frames	_____ shaking of the automobile
5. huge	_____ go in
6. downright	_____ willing, glad
7. venture inside	_____ seldom
8. musty	_____ deformed, ugly
9. fearless	_____ identifies, emphasizes
10. go bananas	_____ splotches, spots
11. blotches	_____ protector
12. disguising	_____ ordered, commanded
13. Guardian	_____ moldy
14. eager	_____ big, enormous
15. hideous	_____ go insane (slang)
16. grotesque	_____ ghastly, horrible
17. carquake	_____ remake

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VOCABULARY ACTIVITY, SHEET 2

DATE _____

SCORE _____

DIRECTIONS: The passage below is from the story “The Perfect Touch” by Eli Glass. While you read the passage, think about the meaning. Try to understand the meanings that the passage is trying to communicate, especially the meaning of the bold words. When you understand the paragraphs, do the activity below.

“David, look! That huge house up there, off the road...see it? In the middle of all those trees, on that hill. See it?”
 “Yeah...it's a house... in the middle of some trees... on a hill. Am I supposed to faint now or what?”
 “Look at it! Doesn't it look downright haunted? Hey! Let's see if we can get up there to it.
 “Hmm. It does look a little strange at that, doesn't it?”
 “Here! Turn left. This must be the driveway. Wow! Would you look at that! Now there's a place that'd make anybody believe in ghosts.”
 “Well then, what say we, uh... venture inside? Or, don't you have the nerve?”
 “You want to go in there?”
 “Hey... you're talkin' to `Th'Kid.' You think `Th'Kid' is afraid of some house? Follow me, m'boy.”
 David and Rob get out of the car and walk up to the door.
 “Okay, Rob, you go first, and I'll follow.”
 “Oh, no you don't! This was your idea.”
 “All right, have it your own way: you go first and I'll follow *you*.”
 “Oh...” Rob almost falls for the trick, then realizes what David has said. “Very funny, wise guy. You go first.”
 “Chicken. All right. You ready?”
 “Ready. David, you smell that?”
 “All I smell is a musty house.”
 “No. Not that. Something stinks.”
 “What'd you expect? A musty house that doesn't stink?”
 “It doesn't just smell musty. It smells e-evil.”
 “Okay, it smells e-evil. Now come on.”

DIRECTIONS: For each word in Column A, find the meaning in Column B. Write the number of the correct meaning in the blank in Column A.

Column A	Column B
_____ huge	1. a way to say “I'm the greatest.”
_____ downright	2. the smell of mold or mildew
_____ haunted	3. one who acts as though he knows more than he does
_____ strange	4. coward
_____ venture	5. wicked, emphasizing the sound of <i>e</i>
_____ nerve	6. very large
_____ Th'Kid	7. enter into
_____ wise guy	8. a place where the spirits of the dead dwell
_____ chicken	9. a bad smell
_____ musty	10. thoroughly, utterly, completely
_____ stinks	11. unusual, eerie
_____ e-evil	12. to be brave enough

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VOCABULARY ACTIVITY, SHEET 3

DATE _____ SCORE _____

DIRECTIONS: The passage below is from the story “The Perfect Touch”. While you read the passage, think about the meaning, especially the meaning of the bold words. Try to understand the meanings that the passage is trying to communicate. When you understand the passage, do the activity below.

“You've gotta be kidding, Rob. Take Susan up to that house? She'd go bananas for sure. And I thought you told me last week that she was scared half to death over those phone calls she's been getting in the middle of the night.”

“She is. She's lost sleep, her grades have gone from A's and B's to C's and D's, and she's breaking out all over her arms with these red blotches. Nervous rash, her doctor calls it.”

“What does this weirdo say, exactly, when he calls her?”

“Strange things. Like, ‘Susan, I'm ver-r-ry concerned about you! You'd better lock your door and sleep with your lights on tonight.”

“Oh, so he knows her name... Doesn't she recognize the voice?”

“She said it sounds like he's disguising it somehow, with a handkerchief over his mouth, or something. He calls her about every other night. Always the same thing: ‘Susan, I'm ver-r-ry concerned about you...’ And yesterday—Get this!—yesterday at school, she got a note in her locker, the whole thing made from letters cut out of magazines; it said, ‘My Dearest Susan, I'm afraid something awful is about to happen to you.’ And it was signed, ‘Your Guardian Angel.’”

DIRECTIONS: For each word in Column A, find the meaning in Column B. Write the number of the correct meaning in the blank in Column A.

Column A	Column B
_____ gotta	1. to not know the identity
_____ go bananas	2. appearing suddenly
_____ scared half to death	3. a piece of cloth
_____ breaking out	4. means “one who protects,” here, it is meant to frighten
_____ blotches	5. an emphatic way of saying “very”
_____ nervous	6. a discolored patch on the skin
_____ weirdo	7. a lunatic, a freak
_____ ver-r-ry	8. slang phrase meaning “to go insane”
_____ concerned	9. hiding, concealing
_____ doesn't recognize	10. a phrase meaning “This is important, listen carefully.”
_____ disguising	11. a phrase that means very frightened (slang)
_____ handkerchief	12. worried
_____ Get this!	13. slang word meaning “got to”
_____ Guardian Angel	14. jittery, tense, worried

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VOCABULARY ACTIVITY, SHEET 4

DATE _____ SCORE _____

DIRECTIONS: Below is the opening paragraph of “The Perfect Touch” by Eli Glass. While you read the paragraph, think about its meaning, especially the meanings of the bold words. Try to understand what the paragraph is trying to communicate to you. When you think you understand the paragraph, do the activity below.

This story is based upon an actual incident which occurred on the night of April 4th, 1964. It's a strange story, and much care has been taken here to re-create with some fidelity, the strange mood and the unpredictable events of that night. Unlike the events of a book, the events of real life, added end to end, rarely seem to form a plot. It could be said, indeed, that while books of fiction usually make sense, as we expect them to, real life seems to have more interest in making confusion than sense. And the characters of real life—that is, all of us—are not nearly as predictable as those in books. Our own actions, in fact, are often a mystery even to ourselves, as if they were being dictated to us whimsically, according to our own unseen desires and wants and pressures and fears.

DIRECTIONS: For each word in Column A, find the meaning in Column B. Write the number of the correct meaning in the blank in Column A.

Column A	Column B
_____ based	1. things that happen
_____ actual	2. almost never
_____ incident	3. people in a story
_____ occurred	4. happened
_____ re-create	5. things that push us to behave in a certain way
_____ fidelity	6. accuracy, exactness
_____ unpredictable	7. stories that are not true
_____ events	8. to make again
_____ rarely	9. something not understood
_____ plot	10. real, true
_____ fiction	11. a happening
_____ sense	12. something that is believable
_____ confusion	13. not able to guess the outcome
_____ characters	14. without forethought, thoughtlessly
_____ actions	15. secret wishes
_____ mystery	16. the idea came from
_____ dictated	17. the story line in movies, novels, etc
_____ whimsically	18. the things we do
_____ unseen desires	19. puzzlement
_____ pressures	20. orders given to us

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LISTENING SKILLS ACTIVITY

DATE _____ SCORE _____

DIRECTIONS: The details listed below occur on the tape. They are listed here in the order that you will hear them. Each detail is described so that you will easily recognize it when you hear it. You need to listen to the entire play to get all the answers. Before listening to the tape, go over this sheet carefully, so that you know what you are listening for. When you hear a detail, write the answer in the blank quickly, then immediately begin listening for the next detail. You may remember some of the details from having heard the tape earlier. If you do, don't fill them in early; wait until you hear them on the tape.

1. The narrator mentions the exact date of an actual incident upon which the story is based. What month is mentioned in that date? _____
2. When Rob first sees the old house he says, “David, look! That _____ house up there, off the road... see it?” What is the missing word?
3. When Rob and David get upstairs and find the dripping. David says, “Rob, look. There's the _____” What word is missing?
4. After Rob and David get back in the car, David says, “Uh-huh, sure. And you were the _____, weren't you?” What words are missing?
(three words)
5. As Rob and David drive away from the haunted house, Rob calls David a name. Rob says, “Drive on, _____” (two words) What does Rob call David?
6. What does Rob say the doctor calls the red blotches on Susan's arms? (two words) _____

7. How long ago did Susan and David break up? _____
8. What is the name of the bridge that Rob suggests Susan and he go see? _____

9. What word does David use to describe his shaking the car? _____
10. How far is it from the haunted house to town? _____

Discussion/Writing Activity

“The Perfect Touch”

Refer to LITERARY TERMS section for definitions.

DIRECTIONS: When answering these questions in writing, use another sheet of paper.

1. Express your honest feelings about jealousy
 - a. What things make you jealous?
 - b. Toward whom have you been jealous? (Perhaps it might be a brother, a sister, a friend.)
 - c. How do you feel when you're jealous?
 - d. What do you do when you're jealous?
 - e. What would be some good ways to deal constructively with jealousy?
2. Do you agree with David when, in the second scene, he says, “Look, Rob, I wouldn't lie to you; you're my buddy! Now, I might've lied to her once or twice; it's okay to lie to your girlfriend... but you never lie to your buddy. It's like this: girlfriends come and go, right? ...but buddies gotta stick together.”? Explain your views.
3. Write about a time you were jealous.
4. Write a dialogue scene between Rob and Susan as they might have planned their effort to expose David.
5. Write a scene between David and Susan when Susan jilts him.
6. What is the SETTING of “The Perfect Touch”?
7. What is the CONFLICT in “The Perfect Touch”?
8. Describe how CONFLICT in “The Perfect Touch” develops.
9. What is the THEME of “The Perfect Touch”?
10. There is an instance of foreshadowing in the first scene. Identify the instance and discuss your reasons for identifying it as foreshadowing.

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31																

ACROSS

1. take a risk
5. accuracy
7. Please be quiet!
8. motor vehicle
10. knock out
12. a riddle
13. short for Susan
15. pronoun
16. a literary invention (a story)
18. spirits
19. how David planned to get back home
21. Another way to spell the word meaning “yes” when used in voting.
22. suffix changing present tense to past tense
24. not applicable (abbreviation)
26. the "Guardian Angel" in the story
27. something that is foreseen
30. the sound from upstairs
31. a place to hang a coat

DOWN

2. repeated sound; heard as it bounces off an object
3. a kind of door
4. Susan's boyfriend
6. ordered
7. sometimes found in closets on Halloween
9. Guardian _____.
11. moldy
13. David's old girlfriend.
14. accusing someone of being afraid
17. north west (abbreviation)
20. a loft
22. wicked
23. used these to get to the second floor
25. The story happened this month.
28. David referred to himself as the _____.
29. Susan was looking for this in the car.