Literary Journalism Test

I. Literary Journalism basics
1. “Literary Journalism was a term coined by
   a. Hunter S. Thompson
   b. Tom Wolfe
   c. Joan Didion
   d. Truman Capote
2. Which of the following is NOT one of the Four Devices of LJ?
   a. Chronological Construction
   b. Dialogue
   c. 3rd person POV
   d. Recording of Status Life
3. Which is the BEST definition of Literary Journalism?
   a. Reporting about literary events, figures, and history.
   b. Stories told about real life.
   c. Heavily researched fictional stories
   d. In-depth reporting and research combined with dramatic storytelling techniques.
4. Choose the two requirements for literary journalism [choose two letters]:
   a. Journalistic credibility
   b. Artistic merit
   c. Intriguing central character
   d. Origins from a straight journalism piece.
5. Which of the following is NOT a limitation of the genre?
   a. Subjectivity
   b. Unfamiliar cultures
   c. Veracity
   d. Narcissism

Match the term and definition

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>6. Scene by scene construction</th>
<th>a. communicating events and describing people through what they say</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7. Dialogue</td>
<td>b. the writer as God</td>
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<td>8. 3rd person POV</td>
<td>c. being based on personal feelings, tastes and opinions</td>
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<td>9. Recording of status life</td>
<td>d. presenting the story through another character’s eyes</td>
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<td>10. Window</td>
<td>e. allowing a reader to see themselves through the stories of others</td>
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<td>11. Mirror</td>
<td>ab. Believeability or truthfulness</td>
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<td>12. Subjectivity</td>
<td>Ac. Telling a story cinematically or novelistically rather then through historical narrative</td>
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<td>13. Veracity</td>
<td>Ad. Allowing a reader to enter another world unfamiliar to them</td>
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<td>14. Narcissism</td>
<td>Ae. Noting the details of everyday life that are often significant and symbolic</td>
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The following quotes are from excerpts we read in this unit. Choose which of the four devices BEST fits the quote.

A. Scene by Scene construction  B. Dialogue
C. 3rd person  D. recording of status life

15. “Don’t be a fool,” said Eduardo. “You can’t look at things like that. I persuaded Gaston and Daniel Shaw to come, and they’re both dead. I even rang Daniel to remind him, but I don’t feel responsible for his death.” – Alive

16. “Their food supplies were running out. The daily ration of a scrap of chocolate, a capful of wine, and a teaspoonful of jam or canned fish—eaten slowly to make it last—was more torture than sustenance for these healthy, athletic boys; yet the strong shared it with the weak, the healthy with the injured.” – Alive

17. “God wants us to survive.”
   “Yes. He wants us to survive.”
   “And there’s only one way.”
   “Yes. There’s only one way.” – Alive

18. I took my stand in front of Woolworth’s in the early chill of a December morning. Other women began to gather shortly afterwards. Backs pressed to the store window, paper bags clutched in their hands, they stared bleakly, blankly into the street. I lost my identity entirely. I was a member of the “paper bag brigade”. – Bronx Slave Market

19. I recognized many of the people who passed. I no longer felt “new”.
   But I was not at peace. Hundreds of years of history weighed upon me.
   I was the slave traded for two truck horses on a Memphis street corner in 1849.
   I was the slave trading my brawn for a pittance on a Bronx street corner in 1949.
   As I stood there waiting to be bought, I lived through a century of indignity. – Bronx Slave Market

20. “All of my girls clean the floor this way, Mary,” she said gently. “This is the way I like them done. Well, finish this one and I’ll call it a day.” – Bronx Slave Market

21. In his youth, the story went, Uncle Ully had been one of the biggest gospel singers on Sand Mountain, but I didn’t know that then. I also didn’t know that within a year he’d be dead, eaten from the inside out by a gangrenous infection that had nothing to do with snakes. – Salvation on Sand Mountain
22. He was carrying a Bible in one hand and a flat wooden serpent box in the other. He wore a dark, western-style shirt, jeans, and a Jesus belt buckle. The portrait of Jesus on the buckle was not one of those conventional ones in which the Lord appears to be a mild-mannered aesthete with shampooed hair. This man's Jesus was more like the wild-eyed Jewish carpenter who had chased the money changers from the temple. –Salvation on Sand Mountain

23. He glanced away as if he'd heard that one before. “The Bible says Jesus won't come again until the gospel's been published in every nation,” he said. “So you just go ahead and write that book. As long as you tell the truth, it'll be edifying to the body of Christ. It'll be like you're spreading the gospel, won't it?”

I nodded. But I wondered if Brother Carl knew then about the inevitable treachery that stood between journalist and subject. I wondered if he was ready for the dance that would have to take place between him and me. –Salvation on Sand Mountain

[choose TWO devices for this one]

Into the Wild

24. “An eminent aerospace engineer who designed advanced radar systems for the space shuttle and other high-profile projects” describes
   A. Wayne Westerberg
   B. Jim Gallien
   C. Walt McCandless
   D. Loren Johnson

25. The tone of McCandless’s journal was often
   A. melodramatic
   B. convoluted and complicated
   C. patronizing
   D. flowery

26. One of McCandless’s literary heroes was
   A. Emily Dickinson
   B. Shakespeare
   C. Henry David Thoreau
   D. Homer

27. Ronald A. Franz was
   A. the forest Ranger who found McCandless’s body
   B. a trucker who gave McCandless a ride to Alaska
   C. an 80-year-old accomplished leatherworker
   D. an aging hippie
28. The only person in McCandless’s family with whom he got along well was
   A. his mother
   B. his father
   C. his step-mother
   D. his sister

29. Something that surprised Wayne Westerberg on McCandless’s final night in Carthage was
   A. McCandless gave Westerberg all his money
   B. Westerberg discovered McCandless was an accomplished pianist
   C. McCandless called his parents one last time
   D. McCandless didn’t drink that night

30. One critic of McCandless wrote, “McCandless died because he ignored advice and committed big-time hubris.” The underlined word means
   A. mistakes
   B. arrogance
   C. unpreparedness
   D. naiveté

31. On weekends, when his high school pals were attending “keggers” and trying to sneak into Georgetown bars, McCandless would
   A. diligently study in the university library
   B. wander the streets trying to help prostitutes and homeless people
   C. drink quietly in his dorm room
   D. spend time with his sister Carine

32. Billie thought it was ironic that McCandless believed that “wealth was shameful, corrupting, inherently evil” because
   A. “Chris was a natural-born capitalist with an uncanny knack for making a buck.”
   B. “Chris was a child of privilege.”
   C. “Chris was studying to be a lawyer.”
   D. “Chris was really wanted to make a difference in the world.”

33. The author’s relationship with his father could be best described as
   A. amicable and friendly
   B. strained and difficult
   C. distant and unemotional
   D. loving and close

34. Chris McCandless, the author believes, died from
   A. misidentified wild sweet pea seeds
   B. moldy wild potato seeds
   C. misidentified mushrooms
   D. berries that are toxic if consumed in great quantity
35. What does Billie McCandless leave at the bus?
   A. Pictures of Chris
   B. A copy of Thoreau’s Walden Pond.
   C. A suitcase stocked with survival supplies as well as a Bible
   D. A set of topographical maps

Read the passages and answer the questions that follow:

I won’t claim to be an impartial biographer. McCandless’s strange tale struck a personal note that made a dispassionate rendering of the tragedy impossible. Through most of the book, I have tried—and largely succeeded, I think—to minimize my authorial presence. But let the reader be warned: I interrupt McCandless’s story with fragments of a narrative drawn from my own youth. I do so in the hope that my experiences will throw some oblique light on the enigma of Chris McCandless. [From Author’s Note]

36. In this passage from the Author’s Note, the reader can conclude that
   A. the author tried but failed to distance himself from McCandless’ story
   B. the author admits his emotional involvement in McCandless’ story
   C. the author admits his authorial intrusions
   D. A and B
   E. B and C

On the back pages of the book that served as his journal, he declared:

I am reborn. This is my dawn. Real life has just begun.

Deliberate Living. Conscious attention to the basics of life, and a constant attention to your immediate environment and its concerns, example—a job, a task, a book; anything requiring efficient concentration (Circumstance has no value. It is how one relates to a situation that has value. All true meaning resides in the personal relationship to a phenomenon, what it means to you).
The Great Holiness of FOOD, the Vital Heat.
Positivism, the Insurpassable Joy of the Life Aesthetic.
Absolute Truth and Honesty.
Reality.
Independence.
Finality—Stability—Consistency.

As McCandless gradually stopped rebuking himself for the waste of the moose, the contentment that began in mid-May resumed and seemed to continue through early July. Then in the midst of this idyll, came the first of two pivotal setbacks. Satisfied, apparently, with what he had learned during his two months of solitary life in the wild, McCandless decided to return to civilization: It was time to bring his “final and greatest adventure” to a close and get himself back to the world of men and women, where he could chug a beer, talk philosophy, enthral strangers with tales of what he’d done. He seemed to have moved beyond his need to assert so adamantly his autonomy, his need to separate himself from his parents. Maybe he was prepared to forgive their imperfections; maybe he was even prepared to forgive some of his own. McCandless seemed ready, perhaps, to go home.
Or maybe not; we can do no more than speculate about what he intended to do after he walked out of the bush. There is no question, however, that he intended to walk out.

Writing on a piece of birch bark, he made a list of things to do before he departed: “Patch Jean, Shave!, Organize pack...” Shortly thereafter he propped his Minolta on an empty oil drum and took a snapshot of himself brandishing a yellow disposable razor and grinning at the camera, clean-shaven, with new patches cut from an army blanket stitched onto the knees of his filthy jeans. He looks healthy but alarmingly gaunt. Already his cheeks are sunken. The tendons in his neck stand out like taut cables.

On July 2, McCandless finished reading Tolstoy’s “Family Happiness,” having marked several passages that moved him:

He was right in saying that the only certain happiness in life is to live for others...

I have lived through much, and now I think I have found what is needed for happiness. A quiet secluded life in the country, with the possibility of being useful to people to whom it is easy to do good, and who are not accustomed to have it done to them; then work which one hopes may be of some use; then rest, nature, books, music, love for one’s neighbor—such is my idea of happiness. And then, on top of all that, you for a mate, and children, perhaps—what more can the heart of a man desire?

37. The first excerpt from McCandless’ journal, given above in italics beginning with “I am reborn...” serves to
   A. emphasize McCandless’ new desire to return to civilization
   B. illustrate the fact that McCandless’ mood of contentment had returned
   C. explain the connection between Thoreau’s and McCandless’ philosophy
   D. provide an example of how important food had become to him

38. Why might it be considered ironic that McCandless was reading “Family Happiness” while at the bus?
   A. He unhappiness with his family is one of the reasons he was in Alaska
   B. He had never before needed other people in his life
   C. He had realized the importance of sharing one’s life when it was too late for him to do so
   D. A and C
   E. A, B, and C
39. In the given passage, Krakauer uses the word “maybe” more than once. Why?
A. He wants to be sure that the reader understands McCandless’ mental state during this time
B. McCandless’ journal does not cover this period of time
C. There is no way of knowing the reasons behind McCandless’ decision to return to civilization
D. There is no way of knowing what he intended to do after leaving the bus
E. C and D

40. In the passage, why does Krakauer describe the picture that McCandless takes of himself?
A. To provide proof that McCandless was healthy at this period of time
B. To describe how McCandless looked
C. To foreshadow McCandless’ death
D. To illustrate that the list McCandless had made was supported by action as well as words

41. The tone of the second passage quoted from McCandless’ journal can be best described as
A. solemn and depressing
B. calm and optimistic
C. satisfied but pessimistic
D. conversational and casual
E. philosophical and pedantic

These last few questions are about the book as a whole:

42. What did McCandless ultimately hope to achieve on his journey across the country and eventually into the wild?
A. he wanted to revolt against his mother, who tried to control him
B. he wanted to gather experiences in order to write a book
C. he wanted to learn how to survive without help from others
D. he wanted to live life without material possessions in the hopes of finding peace
E. he wanted to emulate Tolstoy and Tolstoy’s way of life

43. Why does Krakauer include so many stories about other wanderers who had experiences similar to Chris?
A. to illustrate how many young men had a similar desire to leave civilization behind
B. to provide an opportunity for Krakauer to tell the story of his attempt to climb Devil’s Thumb
C. because the factual record of McCandless’ time in Alaska was so minimal
D. to shift the focus away from McCandless’ difficult relationship with his parents
44. In his final message, Chris
   A. stopped calling himself Alexander Supertramp
   B. expressed his regret for attempting his “Alaskan adventure”
   C. thanked God for a happy life
   D. A and B
   E. A and C

45. How does the author think McCandless really died?
   A. he ate spoiled moose meat and got food poisoning as a result
   B. he died of hypothermia contracted while attempting to cross the Teklanika river
   C. he starved to death
   D. he ate the wrong type of seed
   E. the seeds he ate were moldy

46. If Chris had carried a topographical map, what could he have known that may have saved him?
   A. he was only 16 miles away from a forest ranger station
   B. there was a basket and pulley farther down the river that he could have used to cross
   C. there were two hunting cabins stocked with food only a few miles from the bus
   D. there was an easy ford further up the river
   E. B and C

47. Ch 1 is when Chris gets dropped off at the Stampede Trail; Ch 2 is when his body was found; ch 3 is his time earlier in South Dakota; ch 4 is when he left his car and traveled the desert...

48. Parts of story told through subject’s journals

49. “A peek through a window revealed a Remington rifle, a plastic box of shells, eight or nine paperback books, some torn jeans, cooking utensils, and an expensive backpack. In the very rear of the vehicle, on a jerry-built bunk, was a blue sleeping bag that appeared to have something or someone inside it…”

50. “I’ve given jobs to lots of hitchhikers over the years,” says Westerburg. “Most of them weren’t much good, didn’t really want to work. It was a different story with Alex. He was the hardest worker I’ve ever seen. Didn’t matter what it was, he’d do it: hard physical labor, mucking rotten grain and dead rats out of the bottom of the hole—jobs where you’d get so damn dirty you couldn’t even tell what you looked like at the end of the day.”   [choose TWO]