

The Scarlet Ibis (page 592)**Selection Test**

A. Read each statement from the narrator of this story and think about the theme it suggests. For each statement, write notes explaining what it reveals about the narrator or what he learned from the event it describes. Then, write a theme suggested by the statement or the event. (8 points each)

Statement	What It Reveals About the Narrator	Suggested Theme
1. "There is within me . . . a knot of cruelty borne by the stream of love, much as our blood sometimes bears the seed of our destruction, and at times I was mean to Doodle."		
2. "Renaming my brother was perhaps the kindest thing I ever did for him, because nobody expects much from someone called Doodle."		
3. "But all of us must have something or someone to be proud of, and Doodle had become mine."		

B. Write the letter of the best answer. This exercise is continued on the next page. (5 points each)

- _____ 1. Throughout Doodle's life, the narrator does all he can to
- harm Doodle.
 - avoid Doodle.
 - protect Doodle.
 - change Doodle.
- _____ 2. In general, how does Doodle respond to the narrator's efforts to push him beyond what Doodle thinks he can do?
- angrily
 - willingly
 - fearfully
 - fearlessly

- _____ 3. Doodle's response to the scarlet ibis reveals his
- sensitivity.
 - fear of dying.
 - desire to be "normal."
 - determination to survive.
- _____ 4. Why does the narrator run away from Doodle during the storm at the end of the story?
- He knows that Doodle is about to die.
 - He wants to encourage Doodle to run faster.
 - He realizes that Doodle "lies" better than he does.
 - He wants to punish Doodle for failing.

C. Words to Know. Write the letter of the best answer. (4 points each)

- _____ 1. If a plane's departure is imminent, it will take off
- very soon.
 - on schedule.
 - without danger.
- _____ 2. A person with doggedness is one who shows
- responsibility.
 - good instincts.
 - determination.
- _____ 3. To reiterate a promise is to
- break it.
 - say it again.
 - take it seriously.
- _____ 4. If you stand precariously on a cliff, your footing is
- solid.
 - shaky.
 - relaxed.
- _____ 5. Today, it would be heresy to say that the earth is
- flat.
 - polluted.
 - overpopulated.

D. Answer one of the following questions based on your understanding of the story.

Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

- Think about how the scarlet ibis symbolizes Doodle. In what ways is Doodle like the scarlet ibis? Explain at least **three** ways in which they are alike.
- How does the narrator's pride affect his relationship with Doodle? Why does it have this effect?

E. Linking Literature to Life. Answer the following question based on your own experience and knowledge. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (16 points)

In what kinds of situations do you think pride is a mostly positive force? In what kinds of situations do you think it is a mostly negative one? Explain.