Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ #\_\_\_\_

“A Retrieved Reformation” by O. Henry

1. Which statement best expresses a theme of the text?
   1. Old habits are hard to break.
   2. Never try to change someone you love.
   3. The ability to forgive is the mark of a good man.
   4. People can change for the better.
2. Which paragraph best supports the answer of question #1?
   1. 30
   2. 35
   3. 55
   4. 64
3. How is Valentine released from prison?
   1. He receives a governor’s pardon for being wrongly convicted.
   2. He receives a governor’s pardon because he has powerful friends outside of prison.
   3. He receives an appeal for his case, bringing it to another court for review.
   4. He is not released, he escapes.
4. Which sentence from the text best supports the answer to question #3?
   1. “When a man with as many friends on the outside as Jimmy Valentine has is received in the ‘stir’ it is hardly worthwhile to cut his hair.” (paragraph 1)
   2. “’Me?’” said Jimmy, in surprise. ‘Why, I never cracked a safe in my life.’” (paragraph 3)
   3. “’Or was it simply a case of a mean old jury that had it in for you? It’s always one or the other with you innocent victims.’” (paragraph 4)
   4. “Disregarding the song of the birds, the waving green trees, and the smell of the flowers, Jimmy headed straight for a restaurant. There he tasted the first sweet joys of liberty…” (paragraph 9)
5. What does the word *elusive* mean in paragraph 20.
   1. Untrustworthy or suspicious
   2. Charming and cunning in a manipulative way
   3. Difficult to find or catch
   4. Sophisticated and high-class
6. What event inspired Jimmy to become ‘another man?’
   1. A sudden attraction to a young woman in Elmore.
   2. Being reminded of the warden’s advice to change.
   3. The knowledge that Ben Price is investigating him again and he will need an alibi.
   4. The beginnings of a new con, involving a new identity.
7. Re-read paragraph 55. In terms of structure (how the paragraph is made/written), how does this scene relate to an earlier one in the text?
   1. It is similar to when he had his initial transformation when he first saw Annabel.
   2. It is similar to the description of his talents from his safe-cracking days.
   3. It is similar to the description of Spencer as a “phoenix” in paragraph 30.
   4. It contrasts his earlier characterization as a criminal with that of a hero.
8. When Spencer becomes Jimmy again as he breaks open the vault with the girl trapped inside, is he really like his old self? Why or Why not?
9. Does someone’s past truly matter? Do your past actions make you who you are, or is it possible to leave your past behind completely?
10. In the context of THIS text, can you change your identity? Cite evidence from the text or your own experience.