

Name _____

Class _____

Score: _____

The Divorce

by C.S. Lewis

Part II

Directions: Use complete sentences to respond to the items listed below.

(11) Can cynicism be dangerous?

The Frightened Ghost: “You’ve no right to ask me to do a thing like that.”

(12) What is the ghost frightened of?

(13) What was the purpose of the final “expedient”?

The Grumbling Ghost: “going on forever like a machine.”

(14) Do you think MacDonald is too severe in his judgment of grumbling?

The Painter: “one becomes more and more interested in paint for it’s own sake.”

(15) How had the Painter lost his first love?

Robert's Wife: "it was all for his own good in the end."

(16) What, does Lewis suggest, was the real motive behind Robert's "treatment"?

Pam: "no natural feelings are high or low, holy or unholy, in themselves."

(17) Do you agree with MacDonald that "love, as mortals understand the word, isn't enough"?

(18) What do you think Pam's case was designed to illustrate?

The Ghost with the Lizard: "It would be better to be dead than live with this creature."

(19) What was the nature of this ghost's struggle?

(20) How did he finally break free?

(21) What were the consequences of his choice?

Sarah Smith and the Dwarf-Ghost: “Our light can swallow up your darkness: but your darkness cannot now infect our light.”

(22) What was the relationship between the Dwarf-Ghost and the Tragedian?

(23) In what ways can people be divided within themselves? What are the dangers of acting a part with others?

(24) “Is it really tolerable that she should be untouched by his misery....” How does MacDonald explain Sarah’s reaction?

(25) What distinction is made, in this section, between the action and the passion of pity?

(26) How is pity for others different than pity for oneself? What dangers are inherent in the latter?

(27) According to MacDonald’s reasoning, why was Jesus able to descend into hell?

(28) What do you think the picture was intended to signify?

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Directions: Use complete sentences to respond to the items listed below. General Questions

(1) What do you think Lewis is saying, in this book, about the relationship between good and evil?

(2) Writing in a letter to his brother in 1940, Lewis said: "I begin to suspect that the world is divided not only into the happy and unhappy, but into those who *like* happiness and those who, odd as it seems, really don't." Do you think this is a good insight into the spiritual choice we make for or against God? Is it really that simple?

(3) "Better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven." Why, in Lewis' view, do people reject God?

(4) "Because the Middle Ages erred in one direction, does it follow that there is no error in the opposite direction?" Discuss Lewis' portrait of liberalized Christianity.

(5) Lewis has one of his characters describe God as the Eternal Fact. Do you think that's a good description?

(6) "I believe, to be sure, that any man who reaches Heaven will find that what he abandoned... has not been lost." Do you believe this as well?

(7) "...mortals misunderstand. They say of some temporal suffering "No future bliss can make up for it" not knowing that Heaven, once attained, will work backwards and turn even that agony into a glory." Do you agree with Lewis that the eternal future sets the past in context? Have you ever felt heaven "working backwards" in your own life?"

(8) "Hell is a state of mind..." What are the characteristics of the Hellish mindset? How can we guard against them?

(9) "Those that hate goodness are sometimes nearer [heaven] than those who know nothing about it." Do you think there is some truth in this? Can you think of any real-life examples?

(10) "Every natural love will rise again and live forever in this country: but none will rise again until it has been buried." How are we asked to "bury" the natural loves?

(11) "I know it has a grand sound to say ye'll accept no salvation which leaves even one creature in the dark outside. But watch that sophistry or you'll make a Dog in a Manger the tyrant of the universe." Do you accept MacDonald's explanation of why people are allowed to choose hell?

(12) "Ye cannot know eternal reality by a definition." Discuss this statement.

(13) If you drew one lesson from your reading of *The Divorce*, what would it be?
