**ELA B9: Turning Points** Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

For the first few articles, we will focus on comprehension and summarizing. Prior to answering the questions, please read page 4 and 5 in the Nelson Literacy text entitled Monitor Comprehension and Summarize

Are turning points in life always easy to recognize?

**“Third Man Theory” by Nancy J. White**

1. Surviving a near death experience is a significant turning point. Do you agree or disagree after reading these articles?
2. Under each of the articles titles, sum up the important details in 15 words or less. Climber faces death, encouraged to fight for survival

Miraculous survival changes man’s life

Guardian Angel or survival mechanism?

1. What were the common characteristics of he experience Nancy White describes?
2. Guardian angel or survived mechanism; which side of this argument is supported by the article’s photos and design? How could you redesign the pages to better support the other side of the argument?

**“East: How a Month in China Changed my Life” By Erika Kwee**

1. How can travelling to other countries lead to an important turning point?
2. Should a summary of this text focus on the narrator’s personality, the selection’s plot, or its setting?
3. Erika writes about her reaction to events, but she doesn’t always describe the events she is reacting to. What are some of the things that you could infer happened to her?
4. Identify the parts of this selection that give it the voice of a teenager. How would the voice change if the author were older?
5. What might Erika’s parents have to say about the impact of this experience on their daughter?

**“Take Only What you Need” By Xavier Kataquapit**

1. Have you ever experienced something that changed the way you saw the world?
2. Identify two details in this essay that you would include in your summary. Identify two details that are irrelevant and not necessary to include.
3. Identify the turning point in Xavier’s life. How does that turning point change his attitudes towards hunting?
4. How might a hunter respond to Xavier’s criticism of hunting? What key points might a hunter include?
5. What adjective would you use to describe the voice Xavier has adopted for this text? Is if an effective voice? Explain?

**“In the Land of Smiles” By: Tara Henley**

1. Can we control the turning points in our lives?
2. How would you summarize this article in one sentence for the table on contents of a magazine?
3. In the last paragraph, what does Petra Nemcova mean by “unconditional love.”
4. If this article was turned into a TV news report, how might the producer tell the story? What elements or conventions would the producer use? (For example, voice over narration, graphics, interviews, music, maps etc. )

For the next set of stories, we are focusing on identifying elements of a short story. Please skim and scan page 18 and 19. These pages should act as a review for you because we learned about these elements last semester.

**“The Cake Princess” By: Mar’ce Merrell**

1. Does the author use dialogue effectively to develop her characters? Find examples from the text to support your answer.
2. What do cakes and baking represent to Chantal? Why does Chantal’s mother feel the need to have to many rules for herself and her daughter?
3. Does the final line of the story bring it to a satisfying conclusion? What did or didn’t you like about the ending of the story?
4. Take the elements of a short story into consideration. Do you feel that this story follows the short story plotline accurately? Why or why not?

**“Isabelle” By: Beverly Terrell Deutsch**

1. Compare and contrast this story with other short stories you have read. Do you like this story more or less than others and why?
2. What is the turning point in this story?
3. The author has used word choice effectively in this story to develop the character. Explain why you disagree or agree with this statement.
4. How does the arrangement of words affect your understanding and response to this story?

**“Doing Time” by Christine Harris**

1. Which short story elements did you find worked most effectively in “Doing Time”? Support your answer with examples from the story.
2. Based on how Joel behaves, what can you infer about his past experiences?
3. What biases does Joel have? Do you think the author shares these biases? Explain your thinking?
4. This story is Australian and is written by an Australian writer. Did you find any of the vocabulary difficult to understand? If so, how did you overcome this challenge?

The last two sections of this assignment are poems. Please turn to page 60 and 61. Read the two poems and answer the following questions.

**“If” By: Rudyard Kipling and “The Paradoxical Commandments” by Kent Keith**

1. What guiding principles help you make the right decisions about important turning points in your life? Whose guidelines do you find most helpful; Kipling’s or Keith’s and why?
2. Compare the voices in “If” and “The Paradoxical Commandments.” How is the voice in each of them different? Similar?
3. Read the poem aloud so that you hear the rhythm of the words. Is there a rhyme scheme? If so, write it down for each.
4. How do these poems fit into the unit called “Turning Points?”
5. “If” was written in 1896. Are Kipling’s ideas about maturity still relevant? Does “The Paradoxical Commandments” written in 1968, better reflect your values? Please explain why or why not?
6. How many stanzas are in each poem, and name any literary devices you see what are being used in either poem.