Short Answer Write your responses to the questions in this section on the lines provided.

1. What was Baker’s main purpose in writing “Hard as Nails”? Support your answer with details from the beginning of the essay.

2. In “Hard as Nails,” how does young Baker feel on his first day delivering newspapers? Use details from the essay to support your answer.

3. What kind of writing is “Hard as Nails”? Explain how you know.

4. How would you describe Baker’s mother in “Hard as Nails”? Support your answer with an example from the essay.

5. In “Hard as Nails,” how does Baker feel about Deems? Support your answer with examples from the essay.

6. In “Hard as Nails,” Baker gets to the banquet and is “horrified” to find himself sitting next to Deems. Why is he horrified? Explain your answer with support from the essay.
7. In “Hard as Nails,” Russell Baker reflects on his experiences as a newspaper boy. Select a passage from the end of the essay that is an example of Baker’s reflections.

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8. In “Hard as Nails,” Baker writes about his mother’s fear that laziness would be “embedded in his bones.” Use the definition of embedded to explain how Baker showed that she had nothing to worry about.

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9. “Hard as Nails” reveals the thoughts and feelings of the author, Russell Baker. Explain why the essay does or does not reveal the thoughts and feelings of other characters.

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10. In “Hard as Nails,” Deems gives Baker five extra papers every day. In the chart, write what effect this causes. Then write what is caused by that effect. On the lines below, write what Baker learns about Deems from this chain of events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Effect</th>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deems gives Baker five extra papers.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Essay

Write an extended response to the question of your choice or to the question or questions your teacher assigns you.

11. In “Hard as Nails,” Russell Baker says that he believed that being a newsboy was a “great life.” Why did he think it was a great life? Support your answer with details from the essay.

12. In “Hard as Nails,” Mr. Deems is a central character. In a brief essay, discuss the role Deems played in Russell Baker’s life. Consider the influence Deems had on Baker and how Baker spent a large part of his life. Use details from the essay and the pages before it to support your answer.

13. What does Baker mean by the phrase “hard as nails”? Write a brief essay telling how the three central characters in “Hard as Nails” fit this description.

14. Thinking About the Big Question: What is important to know? In “Hard as Nails,” Baker is disappointed by the newsroom Deems takes the boys to visit. In a brief essay, explain why he is disappointed and how he handles his feelings. Use examples from the essay.

Oral Response

15. Go back to question 1, 4, 5, or 7 or to the question your teacher assigns to you. Take a few minutes to expand your answer and prepare an oral response. Find additional details in “Hard as Nails” that support your points. If necessary, make notes to guide your response.
Word List

embedded  exhaust  fulfilling  idle  immense  sublime

A. DIRECTIONS: Complete each item for the vocabulary words shown above. The first item is started as an example.

1. **embedded** Definition: firmly fixed in a surrounding material; Synonym: set
   Sentence: ____________________________

2. **exhaust** Definition: ________________________ Synonym: __________
   Sentence: ____________________________

3. **fulfilling** Definition: _______________________ Synonym: __________
   Sentence: ____________________________

4. **idle** Definition: __________________________ Synonym: __________
   Sentence: ____________________________

5. **immense** Definition: ______________________ Synonym: __________
   Sentence: ____________________________

6. **sublime** Definition: ________________________ Synonym: __________
   Sentence: ____________________________

B. WORD STUDY: The Latin suffix -ity means “the condition or state of.” Answer each of these questions using one of these words containing -ity: probability, activity, unity.

1. If everyone in our group disagrees, do we have a unity of opinion? Explain why or why not.
   __________________________________________

2. During the summer, is there a high probability that the weather will be hot? Explain why or why not.
   __________________________________________

3. What is your favorite activity? Explain why you favor it.
   __________________________________________
**“Hard as Nails” by Russell Baker**

**Reading: Recognize Details That Indicate Author’s Purpose**

An **author’s purpose** is the main reason the author writes a work. An author’s general purpose may be to entertain, to inform, to persuade, or to reflect. (*To reflect* means “to think carefully or seriously about something after it has happened.”) The author also has a specific purpose. For example, in an article about a first job, the general purpose may be to entertain, and the specific purpose may be to reflect on the valuable lessons learned in the first job.

**Learn to recognize details** that indicate the author’s purpose. Look at the examples of how details can indicate purpose.

- Facts, statistics, and technical terms are used to inform or persuade.
- Stories about experiences are used to entertain.
- Opinions and thoughts are used to reflect on an experience.

An author can have more than one purpose. For example, an author may inform and persuade in the same piece of writing.

**A. DIRECTIONS:** Use the chart to help you recognize the details Russell Baker uses to achieve his purpose for writing. Read each detail from “Hard as Nails.” In the center column, note the kind of detail. Is it a fact or technical term? An incident or event? An opinion or a thought? In the column at the right, note the general purpose of the detail. Is it to entertain? To inform? To persuade? To reflect? The first one is done for you as an example.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Detail from “Hard as Nails”</th>
<th>Kind of Detail</th>
<th>General Purpose of Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. As we walked back to the house, she said I couldn’t have a paper route until I was twelve.</td>
<td>an incident</td>
<td>to entertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. This move of hers to Baltimore was a step toward fulfilling a dream.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. So, as soon as it was legal, I went into newspaper work.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. I had often gazed with envy at paperboys; to be one of them at last was happiness sublime.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. I never quit believing it was a great life.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Hard as Nails** by Russell Baker

**Literary Analysis: Autobiographical Essay**

In a **narrative essay**, the author narrates, or tells in order, the true story of real events that happened to real people. An **autobiographical essay** tells about an event or a time in the author's own life. Because the author is writing about personal experiences, his or her own thoughts, feelings, and reactions can also be included.

Writers choose to include particular events, thoughts, and feelings to achieve a purpose. For example, writers may choose to tell about an experience in their lives in order to share with the reader what they learned from the experience.

**DIRECTIONS:** Complete the graphic organizer below to help you understand the author's choices in the autobiographical essay "Hard as Nails" by Russell Baker: Reread "Hard as Nails" to find more information about the events listed in the arrows on the left. Then write the author's thoughts or feeling at the time and his specific purpose for including that event. The first one is done for you as an example.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Thoughts/Feelings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. I had to sit beside Deems throughout the meal.</td>
<td>to show how young and inexperienced he is</td>
<td>panicked, horrified, afraid to make mistakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. He asked if I would like to join a small group of boys he was taking to visit the News-Post newsroom.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Riding home on the streetcar that night, I realized I was a lucky boy.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. You're a member of the fourth estate.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Deems quit.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>