Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**“Contents of the Dead Man’s Pocket”**

1. In the beginning of the story, Tom Benecke is at home working, but he is having a hard time getting started. What distracts him from his work?
2. Which words on page 1 tell you why Tom is staying home? What do the words tell you about what Tom values most at the beginning of the story?
3. On page 1, Tom is faced with an internal conflict. What is it, and does he resolve it? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
4. Using evidence from page 2, explain how the author shows the importance of the yellow paper.
5. Using evidence from page 2, explain what Tom's ambition is. How does this relate to the conflict he experiences on page 1?
6. On page 3, the character visualizes himself easily going out onto the ledge and retrieving the paper. Use evidence from the story to explain this mental process, his emotional reaction to the mental process, and his motivation for putting himself in such danger.
7. On page 3, a second setting is revealed. What is it and how does the writer use this setting to create suspense? Use evidence from pages 3 and 4 to support your answer.
8. On page 5, time seems to slow down as Tom tries to overcome his fear. Which details show that time is passing slowly?
9. Beginning at the top of page 4 and reading on through page 5, the author describes the transformation that takes place in Tom from self-confidence to fear. How does this transformation affect his life's priorities?
10. What is the "sheer emptiness" Tom encounters on page 5? How does the use of the words "sheer emptiness" enhance the suspense?
11. On page 6, the author describes Tom’s reaction to looking inside his own living room window from the outside. He notices the yellow sheet still “clenched in his front teeth.” How has his opinion of this yellow sheet of paper changed?
12. At the bottom of page 6, as Tom is looking into his living room with only a “sheet of glass between him and the room just before him,” he thinks of several things to try to get inside. What are they and how do they work out for him?
13. When Tom imagines the report of "the contents of the dead man's pocket", what does he realize about his life's priorities? Use evidence from page 8 to support your answer.
14. By the end of the story Tom's priorities change. Explain the change and support your answer with Tom's actions and words from pages 8 and 9.