

Quiz 1: *The Pillowman* (10 minutes, 10 points)

Name Student S

Section High marks (80–100%)

1. (0.5) “The first duty of a storyteller is to tell a story.”

2. (1) Give one lie told in the play. Ariel saying “This reminds me.”

3. (0.5) What does *The Libertad* mean? Freedom

4. (1) In Katurian’s story “The Pillowman,” how does the Pillowman die?

With a last mission: telling the Pillowboy, his younger self, his current/future miseries.

When the boy burns himself to spare the man misery, Pillowman never came to be.

5. (1) Why does the little Chinese deaf boy not get hit by the train?

Just before the train reaches him, the boy jumps off, away from the railroad tracks, to

catch the paper airplane that the old man in the tower throws down to him.

6. (0.5) Why does Katurian stay kneeling long after Ariel leaves the room?

The same reason he stays blindfolded—he doesn’t quite know and thinks he should

remain as told unless instructed otherwise.

7. (1.5) Write T if true and F if false.

F Ariel beats Michal up so Michal confesses to killing the children.

F Michal kills the third child like in the story “The Little Jesus.”

F Ariel burns Katurian’s stories.

8. (4) Does *The Pillowman* have a happy ending? Explain why or why not.

Unlike Michal who sees a happy ending as the main character that he identifies with

not dying or Katurian who sees it as not about being dead or not dead, but about what

one leaves behind, I think the words “happy” or “unhappy” as types of ending describe

feelings or moods. The Pillowman closes with Katurian’s “downbeat ending” thwarted

by Tupolski’s contrariness—not giving what Katurian expects. So Tupolski is beaten

at his own game: cutting an unhappy story short results in a happy story where Ariel

disobeys him, Katurian’s life work isn’t burned, the police and the state become the

protector of literature, and Katurian gets his wish. This ironic triumph over a

“fashionably downbeat ending” means we have an upbeat ending unlike anything

in fashion.

Quiz 1: *The Pillowman* (10 minutes, 10 points)

Name Student V

Section Middle marks (50–60%)

1. (0.5) “The first duty of a storyteller is to tell stories.”

2. (1) Give one lie told in the play. Michal: “I did not kill the children.”

3. (0.5) What does *The Libertad* mean? “The Liberty” which can print any kind of story.

4. (1) In Katurian’s story “The Pillowman,” how does the Pillowman die?
The Pillowman does not die. He merely fades away.

5. (1) Why does the little Chinese deaf boy not get hit by the train?
The old man on the tower helped him by shooting a paper missile.

6. (0.5) Why does Katurian stay kneeling long after Ariel leaves the room?
He is afraid of Tupolski.

7. (1.5) Write T if true and F if false.
F Ariel beats Michal up so Michal confesses to killing the children.
T Michal kills the third child like in the story “The Little Jesus.”
F Ariel burns Katurian’s stories.

8. (4) Does *The Pillowman* have a happy ending? Explain why or why not.
No, the play *The Pillowman* does not have a happy ending. Katurian and Michal are killed. It is unfair that Katurian is executed for killing six people when he killed only three: his parents and his brother. Michal is also killed because of Katurian’s misunderstanding. Katurian thinks that Michal has killed all three children, the last one most horrifically according to “The Little Jesus” story, when in fact he killed only two. Michal is also willing to experience torture by his parents in order that Katurian can write stories that he will enjoy listening to again and again.

Quiz 1: *The Pillowman* (10 minutes, 10 points)

Name Student A

Section Low marks (10–30%)

1. (0.5) “The first duty of a storyteller is to make sure people read his stories.”

2. (1) Give one lie told in the play. Michal did not kill the mute girl.

3. (0.5) What does *The Libertad* mean? A book that has Katurian’s stories in it.

4. (1) In Katurian’s story “The Pillowman,” how does the Pillowman die?
He drowns.

5. (1) Why does the little Chinese deaf boy not get hit by the train?
Although he was deaf, he could feel the vibration of the train through his feet, so he stepped off the tracks in time before the train hits him.

6. (0.5) Why does Katurian stay kneeling long after Ariel leaves the room?
He does not want Michal to be tortured.

7. (1.5) Write T if true and F if false.
 T Ariel beats Michal up so Michal confesses to killing the children.
 T Michal kills the third child like in the story “The Little Jesus.”
 F Ariel burns Katurian’s stories.

8. (4) Does *The Pillowman* have a happy ending? Explain why or why not.
The Pillowman has a sad ending because when the Pillowman saves himself from having a miserable life, he gives back long and miserable lives to many adults.