**Section 1: Vocabulary**

Match the following words from the story with their definitions:

| **Vocabulary** | **Definition** |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Ominous | A. A feeling or belief that something bad is going to happen. |
| 2. Superstition | B. The appearance of something supernatural or ghostly. |
| 3. Apparition | C. A belief or practice resulting from fear of the unknown. |
| 4. Foreboding | D. Suggesting that something bad or unpleasant is going to happen. |
| 5. Lurking | E. Remaining hidden so as to wait in ambush. |

**Answer Key:**

1. Ominous - D
2. Superstition - C
3. Apparition - B
4. Foreboding - A
5. Lurking - E

**Section 2: Comprehension Questions**

Answer the following questions based on the story:

1. What is the legend of the Black Dog in the story?
   * **Answer**: The Black Dog is a ghostly creature that appears to people as a sign of misfortune or death. It is said to be a bad omen.
2. Describe the encounter that the main character has with the Black Dog.
   * **Answer**: The main character sees the Black Dog at night, lurking in the shadows. The dog appears to follow him, and he feels a sense of fear and foreboding, believing that something bad will happen.
3. How do the people in the town react to stories about the Black Dog?
   * **Answer**: The people in the town are very superstitious. They believe in the legend and avoid talking about it, fearing that mentioning the Black Dog might bring bad luck.
4. What happens after the main character's encounter with the Black Dog?
   * **Answer**: After the encounter, the main character becomes paranoid and anxious, constantly fearing that the Black Dog will bring misfortune to him or his family.
5. What message or theme do you think the story is trying to convey?
   * **Answer**: The story explores the theme of fear and how superstition can influence people’s behavior and beliefs. It shows how fear of the unknown can have a powerful impact on people's minds.

**Section 3: Discussion Questions**

Discuss the following questions with a partner or in a small group:

1. Do you believe in superstitions? Why or why not?
2. Have you ever experienced something that you thought was a bad omen? How did it make you feel?
3. How do stories like *The Black Dog* influence people’s beliefs and behaviors?
4. Why do you think people are afraid of things they cannot see or understand?

**Section 4: Writing Prompt**

*Write a short essay (150-200 words) on the following topic:*

**"How Do Superstitions Influence People’s Lives?"**

Discuss how superstitions might affect decisions, actions, and relationships. Include examples from the story and your own experiences.

**Rubric for Writing Prompt**

| **Criteria** | **Excellent (4)** | **Good (3)** | **Fair (2)** | **Needs Improvement (1)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Content** | Clearly explains how superstitions influence lives with detailed examples. | Explains influence with some examples. | Explains influence with limited examples. | Lacks clear explanation or examples. |
| **Organization** | Essay is well-organized with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. | Essay is organized but may lack a smooth flow. | Essay has a basic structure but lacks clear transitions. | Essay is disorganized or lacks a clear structure. |
| **Grammar & Vocabulary** | Uses varied vocabulary and correct grammar throughout. | Uses appropriate vocabulary with few errors. | Limited vocabulary use and some grammatical errors. | Many grammatical errors and limited vocabulary. |
| **Length** | 150-200 words | 130-149 or 201-220 words | 100-129 or 221-240 words | Below 100 or above 240 words |