Literary Terms Scavenger Hunt

Directions: 1) Underline and label examples of literary elements and devices in the following passages. 2) Identify the examples in the space below each passage.

1. “Rainsford sprang up and moved quickly to the rail, mystified. He strained his eyes in the direction from which the reports had come, but it was like trying to see through a blanket. He leapt upon the rail and balanced himself there, to get greater elevation; his pipe, striking a rope, was knocked from his mouth. He lunged for it; a short, hoarse cry came from his lips as he realized he had reached too far and had lost his balance. The cry was pinched off short as the blood-warm waters of the Caribbean Sea closed over his head.” (Richard Connell, “The Most Dangerous Game,” P. 19)

Literary Elements: __________________________________________________
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Literary Devices (3): _______________________________________________
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2. “The lottery was conducted- as were the square dances, the teenage club, the Halloween program- by Mr. Summers, who had time and energy to devote to civic activities. He was a roundfaced, jovial man and he ran the coal business, and people were sorry for him, because he had no children and his wife was a scold. When he arrived in the square, carrying the black wooden box, there was a murmur of conversation among the villagers and he waved and called, "Little late today, folks."

...Mr. Summers spoke frequently to the villagers about making a new box, but no one liked to upset even as much tradition as was represented by the black box. (Shirley Jackson, “The Lottery,” P.229)

Literary Elements: _________________________________________________
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Literary Devices: _________________________________________________
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Literary Elements: __________________________________________________

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Literary Devices: ______________________________________

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4. “It was in the clove of seasons, summer was dead but autumn had not yet been born, that the ibis lit in the bleeding tree. The flower garden was stained with rotting brown magnolia petals, and ironweeds grew rank amid the purple phlox. The five o’clocks by the chimney still marked time, but the oriole nest in the elm was untenanted and rocked back and forth like an empty cradle. The last graveyard flowers were blooming, and their smell drifted across the cotton field and through every room of our house, speaking softly the names of our dead.” (James Hurst, “The Scarlet Ibis,” P. 416)

Literary Elements: __________________________________________________

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Literary Devices: ______________________________________

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5. “In those days everybody we knew was just as hungry and ill clad as we were. Poverty was the cage in which we all were trapped, and our hatred of it was still the vague, undirected restlessness of the zoo-bred flamingo who knows that nature created him to fly free.” (Eugenia W. Collier, “Marigolds,” P.142)

Literary Elements: __________________________________________________

Literary Devices: __________________________________________________
6. “There was not much doubt about the truth of Harry’s story. As a matter of fact it wasn’t a surprising thing for a krait to do. They hand around people’s houses, and they go for the warm places. The surprising thing was that Harry hadn’t been bitten. The bite is quite deadly except sometimes when you catch it at once, and they kill a fair number of people each year in Bengal, mostly in the villages.” (Roald Dahl, “Poison”)

Literary Elements: _______________________________________________________
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Literary Devices: _________________________________________________________
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7. “Imagine a morning in late November. A coming of winter morning more than twenty years ago. Consider the kitchen of a spreading old house in a country town. A great black stove is its main feature; but there is also a big round table and a fireplace with two rocking chairs placed in front of it. Just today the fireplace commenced its seasonal roar.

A woman with shorn white hair is standing at the kitchen window. She is wearing tennis shoes and a shapeless gray sweater over a summery calico dress. She is small and sprightly, like a bantam hen; but, due to a long youthful illness, her shoulders are pitifully hunched. Her face is remarkable- not unlike Lincoln’s, craggy like that, and tinted by sun and wind; but it is delicate too, finely boned, and her eyes are sherry-colored and timid.” (Truman Capote, “A Christmas Memory,” P.64)

Literary Elements: _______________________________________________________
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Literary Devices: _________________________________________________________
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8. “You’ll have a cocktail, Mr. Rainsford,” he suggested. The cocktail was surprisingly good; and, Rainsford noted, the table appointments were of the finest—the linen, the crystal, the silver, the china.

They were eating borscht, the rich red soup with sour cream so dear to Russian palates. Half apologetically General Zaroff said: “We do our best to preserve the amenities of civilization here. Please forgive any lapses. We are well off the beaten track, you know. Do you think the champagne has suffered from its long ocean trip?”

“Not in the least,” declared Rainsford. He was finding the general a most thoughtful and affable host, a true cosmopolite. But there was one small trait of the general’s that made Rainsford uncomfortable. Whenever he looked up from his plate he found the general studying him, appraising him narrowly. (Richard Connell, “The Most Dangerous Game,” P.22)

Literary Elements: _________________________________________________________________

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Literary Devices: ____________________________________________________________

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Literary Terms Scavenger Hunt: Answers

1. Literary Elements: Responses will vary.
   Literary Devices: Simile (the night is like a blanket, hard to see through both); Imagery (short, hoarse cry, blood-warm waters); Foreshadowing (blood-warm)

2. Literary Elements: Characterization, Setting, Responses will vary.
   Literary Devices: Symbolism (the black box), Imagery (murmur of conversation)

3. Literary Elements: Responses will vary
   Literary Devices: Metaphor (Time: film run backward); Personification ("Machine howled," “suns fled...” “its scream")

4. Literary Elements: Exposition (Mood, Setting); Tone (Nostalgic, Melancholy)
   Literary Devices: Figurative language/Metaphor ("clove of seasons"); Personification ("summer was dead....", “bleeding tree,” “smell speaking softly”); Imagery ("stained with rotting petals,” “bleeding tree”); Simile (“like an empty cradle"); Symbolism (scarlet ibis)

5. Literary Elements: Setting, Mood
   Literary Devices: Metaphor (“Poverty was the cage,” “our hatred... was the restlessness of the zoo-bred flamingo”)

6. Literary Elements: Responses may vary
   Literary Devices: Irony (It’s unexpected that he hasn’t been bitten, since so many have died from the snake in the region)

7. Literary Elements: Setting, Mood, Characterization
   Literary Devices: Personification (fireplace roared); Simile ("like a bantam hen"); Allusion (Abraham Lincoln); Imagery

8. Literary Elements: Characterization, Mood
   Literary Devices: Foreshadowing (the general is appraising him like a specimen to be hunted); Irony (civilized behavior and accommodations are unexpected from a man who hunts men in such an uncivilized way); Imagery ("rich red soup")