**Reading Comprehension : “The Boat” by Alistair McLeod**

1. Although it remains a sharp and painful memory, the narrator in “The Boat” has understood and come to terms with his past. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
2. Write a defense in support of the mother’s position in the story. This should be a longer paragraph in length.
3. Making connections: Choose one passage from the story that connects to your life. Write down the passage and explain the connection.
4. Form and Style:
   1. Analyze the detailed description of the narrator’s dead father in the last paragraph of the story. In your opinion, does this passage provide an effective ending?
   2. Find one example of parallel structure. Write it down and state why you think the author used repetition in this case.
5. Theme: What is the most valuable idea in this story? Also, how could this idea still be considered valuable today?
6. Author’s Purpose: In the excerpt given to you regarding MacLeod’s purpose for writing the story, he states:

*“I would like this work to impress upon people the importance of the past, the importance of tradition, and the importance of the lives of those who have gone before them. I think that far too often in the present day we think of ourselves as an instant people – people who have no past, people who have no surroundings…also that, today, people are encouraged to be able to do whatever they want to do if they have the ability to carry out their plans.”*

Do you agree with what Alistair MacLeod is saying in this paragraph? Why or why not?

**Quotation Identification:** State the speaker and significance (what the quote means and why it is important to the story as a whole) for the following quotes. Responses should be written in a fluent paragraph.

1. “…I was ashamed yet proud, young yet old and saved yet forever lost…” (p.269)
2. “I wished that the two things I loved so dearly did not exclude each other in a manner that was so blunt and too clear.” (p.273)
3. “It seemed very far away from him or else he was so much in the foreground that he seemed too big for it.” (p.270)