Critical Reading Questions
On the line to the left, write the letter of the best answer. Make sure your penmanship is legible.

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1. What is the setting of this screenplay?
   a. a quiet residential street in a small town
   b. a quiet residential street in a large city
   c. the downtown area of a town
   d. an alien spaceship

2. What is so unusual about the electric power going out on Maple Street?
   i. The telephone lines are also out.
   ii. The portable radios do not work.
   iii. The cars won’t start.
   iv. The people are unable to leave the neighborhood.
   a. i, ii, iii
   b. i, ii, iv
   c. i, iii, iv
   d. ii, iii, iv

3. Which character’s statement best explains why the people on Maple Street are so upset that none of their machines run?
   a. Charlie: A little power failure and right away we get ‘all flustered and everything.
   b. Van Horn: I’ll cut through the back yard . . . See if the power’s still on on Floral Street.
   c. Steve: It couldn’t be the meteor. A meteor couldn’t do this.
   d. Don: I didn’t hear any crash though, did you?

4. Which two ideas does the boy Tommy suggest to the crowd of neighbors?
   i. that the power loss was caused by a ship landing from outer space
   ii. that the ice cream vendor caused the roar and flashing light
   iii. that some people in the neighborhood look human but are really from outer space
   iv. that Mr. Goodman is really from outer space
   a. i and ii
   b. i and iii
   c. ii and iv
   d. iii and iv

5. Which clue might lead you to predict that the neighbors will become suspicious of one another?
   a. Man One’s comment that they are crazy to be listening to Tommy
   b. Don’s assurance that the meteor could affect their machines
   c. Woman’s comment that Tommy has been reading too many comic books
   d. Steve’s joke that they should run a check to see who’s really human

6. What first causes neighbors to suspect that Les Goodman is from outer space?
   a. He didn’t come out to look at the roar and flashing light.
   b. One woman has seen him looking at the sky in the middle of the night.
   c. His car starts by itself.
   d. He has lived on Maple Street for only five years.
7. At the end of Act I, what does Goodman say to the mob that hints at an action to come later in the play?
   a. "You know what I'm guilty of? I'm guilty of insomnia."
   b. "What is this, a gag or something?"
   c. "We're no different from any of the rest of you!"
   d. "As God is my witness... you're letting something begin here that's a nightmare!"

8. What role does Steve play as the neighbors keep watch on the Goodmans' house?
   a. peacemaker, since he tries to convince his neighbors to stop being so suspicious
   b. hanging judge, since he tries to convince his neighbors that something is wrong with Goodman
   c. detective, since he tries to find out what Tommy really knows
   d. spy, since he tries to call the aliens on his ham radio

9. Which one of Steve's statements best describes the conflict that develops between the neighbors?
   a. "Let's pick out every idiosyncrasy of every single man, woman, and child on the street."
   b. "You're standing here all set to crucify—all set to find a scapegoat—all desperate to point some kind of a finger at a neighbor!"
   c. "If they want to look inside our house—let them get a search warrant."
   d. "And stop telling me who's dangerous and who isn't and who's safe and who's a menace."

10. What happens that temporarily turns the neighbors away from their conflict among themselves?
    a. The lights come on in Charlie's house.
    b. Steve admits to talking to monsters from outer space.
    c. A figure appears down the street, walking toward them.
    d. Tommy admits that he was making up a story.

11. Whom or what does Charlie shoot with the shotgun?
    a. the monster from outer space
    b. Steve Brand
    c. Don Martin
    d. Pete Van Horn

12. In which order do these events take place as the neighbors become more and more of a mob?
    I. The neighbors chase Charlie onto his front porch.
    II. The lights come on in Charlie's house after he has shot Pete Van Horn.
    III. The neighbors start to chase Tommy and his mother.
    IV. Charlie accuses Tommy of being the monster.
    a. I, II, III, IV
    b. II, I, IV, III
    c. III, I, II, IV
    d. IV, III, II, I

13. What do you learn from the dialogue between Figure One and Figure Two in the spacecraft?
    a. The conflict between the neighbors was planned and arranged by the beings from outer space.
    b. Tommy was correct in his belief that the beings from outer space had sent people ahead of them to prepare for the landing.
    c. The real monster from outer space was Pete Van Horn.
    d. The machines had stopped running because of a meteor.

14. According to the Narrator, which of these weapons are as destructive as bombs and fallout?
    a. visitors from the fifth dimension
    b. ships from outer space
    c. stories from comic books or movies
    d. prejudice and suspicion