I. Before you Read: Complete the following before you read the story.

Use p. 253 in the textbook to help you complete the following:

1. _______________ are brief works of _______________ that are meant to ______________ readers. In “The Night the Bed Fell,” James Thurber produces a ______________ effect by ______________ the ______________ of a situation with the characters’ ______________ of what is happening.

2. One way that writers create humor is through characterization.

Characters are: _______________.

Characterization is: _______________.

A writer can develop a character through ______________, through the character’s ______________, ______________, or ______________, or through the reactions of ______________.

3. Vocabulary Development: define the following words, using page 253.

Ominous: _______________.

Allay: _______________.

Fortitude: _______________.

Perilous: _______________.

Deluge: _______________.

Pungent: _______________.

Extricate: _______________.

Culprit: _______________.

Now, flip through the story. The drawings in the story were created by the author and connect to the story. Be mindful of them.

Review the footnotes at the bottom of each page and define the following, using the information at the bottom of the pages:

- **Verisimilitude**: ____________________________
- **Crotchets**: ____________________________
- **Chloroform**: ____________________________

**II. While You Read**: Complete the following while you read the story, which starts on p. 254.

1. Complete the chart, recording the different ideas characters have about event in the story:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What Really Happens?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Directions:** Using evidence from the story and the house illustration below, locate and label each character’s bedroom from the author’s description.

2. **Flip back to p. 252 and look at the cartoon.**
List two important objects in the cartoon and describe what each represents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Object</th>
<th>Symbolizes</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</table>

a. What event from the selection does the cartoon portray?
__________________________________________________________________________

b. James Thurber titled this cartoon: “Briggs Suffocating.” Suggest an alternate caption for the drawing.
__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

2. What scenes from the story do the cartoons on p. 256, and 258 portray? Explain using character names and details from the text.

**Cartoon on p. 256:**

**Cartoon on p. 258:**

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[Diagram of a house with labels: Attic, Front of house, Hallway]
3. How would Gracie Shoaf defend the actions shown in the drawing on p. 256? Explain, using evidence from the text.

4. What details of Brigg’s character produce humor? In other words, what makes him funny? Give at least 3 specific examples from the text, and explain in a good 5-7 sentence paragraph.

III. After You Have Read: Complete the following after you have read the story.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS
Directions: Write the letter of the best answer to each question on the line in front of the question. Please use CAPITAL letters.

_____1. What sets off the chain of events in the story?
   A. Rex the dog awakens and barks.
   B. Mrs. Thurber shouts that her husband is dying.
   C. The author's bed collapses.

_____2. Who was in the house on the night described?
   A. Mother, Father, Herman, Roy, Briggs, James, and Rex
   B. Mother, Father, Herman, Roy, Briggs, James, Grandfather, and Rex
   C. Mother, Father, Herman, Roy, Briggs, James, Aunt Melissa, Aunt Gracie, and Uncle Harold
3. When did the bed collapse?
   A. 10:00 PM
   B. 12:00 AM
   C. 2:00 AM

4. Which detail below helps explain why the characters behave as they do?
   A. They are not fully awake.
   B. Their rooms are far apart.
   C. They are all affected by the smell of camphor.

5. What is Briggs's big fear?
   A. He is afraid of suffocating in his sleep.
   B. He is afraid of cutting himself on broken glass.
   C. He is afraid of having strangers see him through the window.

6. Which word most accurately describes Thurber's relatives as he depicts them?
   A. Thurber's relatives are calm.
   B. Thurber's relatives are eccentric.
   C. Thurber's relatives are ordinary.

7. What kind of essay is "The Night the Bed Fell"?
   A. It is a humorous essay.
   B. It is a persuasive essay.
   C. It is an impersonal essay.

Final Thoughts: What does the story suggest about the importance of being fully alert when making judgments or decisions? Why? Explain fully, using good details.