

NAME:

COURSE:

The Fountain Plays

*He had not fainted; he was not stunned. He was dead. He must have caught the brass curb of the fender as he fell. There was no blood, but Mr Spiller, exploring the inert head with anxious fingers, found a spot above the **temple** where the bone yielded to pressure like a cracked egg-shell. The noise of the fall had been thunderous. **Kneeling** there on the library floor, Mr Spiller waited for the inevitable cry and footsteps from upstairs.*

*Nothing happened. He remembered - with difficulty, for his mind seemed to be working slowly and **stiffly** - that above the library there was only the long drawing-room, and over that the spare-room and bathrooms. No inhabited bedroom looked out on that side of the house.*

*A slow, **grinding**, grating noise startled him. He whisked round **hastily**. The old-fashioned grandfather clock, wheezing as the hammer rose into action, struck eleven. He **wiped** the sweat from his forehead, got up and poured himself out another, and a stiffer, brandy.*

The drink did him good. It seemed to take the brake off his mind, and the wheels span energetically. An extraordinary clarity took the place of his previous confusion.

*He had murdered Gooch. He had not exactly intended to do so, but he had done it. It had not felt to him like murder, but there was not the slightest doubt what the police would think about it. And once he was in the hands of the police - Mr Spiller **shuddered**. They would almost certainly want to take his finger-prints, and would be surprised to recognize a bunch of old friends.*

QUESTIONS

1. Vocabulary. Match the words to the definitions (1 point).

Temple	Kneeling	Stiffly	Grinding	Hastily	Wiped	Shuddered
						In a hurry
						Dried out
						Getting on one's knees
						In a difficult way, unable to move
						Trembled, shivered with cold

2. Answer the following questions according to the story (5 points).

a. Why did Mr Spiller kill Gooch?

b. Why had Mr Spiller been to prison?

