Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_

**Mini Lesson: Tabloid Risks**

*Directions: Once you’ve scanned all of the tabloid examples, review the list of Tabloid Risks and their descriptions below. Consider which tabloid examples fall under each of the Tabloid Risks. Write the corresponding number(s) on the line.*

**Tabloid Risks**

*Clichés*

Authors of non-tabloid fiction go to great lengths to avoid clichés (words or phrases that have lost their effectiveness through overuse), but tabloid stories revel in them. In tabloid land, every “ordeal” must be “grueling,” and no story of romance can be complete without a “shocking discovery!”

*Hyperbole*

Good journalists do their best to avoid hyperbole, or the deliberate and obvious use of exaggeration for dramatic effect, but tabloids thrive on them.

*Alliteration*

Tabloids are absolutely addicted to the tacky tricks of alliteration—the repetition of initial letters of adjoining words.

*Element of the Supernatural*

Tabloid writers love to feel like they’re breaking ground on new, undiscovered, and yet-to-be-proven territory. Aliens, wizards, and ghosts—oh my! These supernatural creatures frequently make an appearance in the tabloid world.

*Absurd or Improbable Events*

Bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster, Elvis Presley—you name it. Readers love hearing about these ancient folkloric traditions, relating the sort of tales grandma used to tell in hushed tones late at night as the family huddled by the fireplace. The return of such figures is a key component of the tabloid cosmology.

*Tell-All Confessionals*

Everybody’s family is a little bit weird, but most of us, at some point, worry about our normality. Tabloid readers feel better by reading stories so shockingly strange because they get to feel ordinary by comparison. This aspect of tabloid news has been somewhat superseded by trash television, but still exists.

**Tabloid Examples**