

SAMPLE PAGES
from
The Competitive Edge

Passing the
EOG 3 in READING

❖ *FOURTH EDITION* ❖

by
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CPC

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CHAPTER

DESCRIPTIONS, TITLES AND CONCLUSIONS

DESCRIPTIONS

Sometimes the reader may be asked to describe a character or emotion.

EXAMPLES

Valerie got out of bed at 5:00 A.M. She made her bed, cooked breakfast, put clothes in the washing machine, and dusted and vacuumed the house.

How would you describe Martha in one word? _____

The answer could be “hardworking” since she starts housework at 5:00 A.M.

ANOTHER TITLE

Authors usually have titles for their poems, articles, and stories. The reader can sometimes think of other titles for the author’s work.

EXAMPLE

WHERE GO THE BOATS?

Dark brown is the river
Golden is the sand.
It flows along forever,
with trees on either hand.

Green leaves a-floating,
Castles of the foam,
Boats of mine a-boating—
When will all come home?

On goes the river
And out past the mill,
Away down the valley,
Away down the hill.

Away down the river,
A hundred miles or more.
Other little children
Shall bring my boats ashore.

What might be another title for this poem?

One title could be “Away Down the River” since the poem is about a river.

WRITING A LOGICAL CONCLUSION

Sometimes an author will not give the reader an ending to a selection. The author leaves the reader to decide what happens in the conclusion.

EXAMPLE

Mallory baited her hook and threw the line into the salty water. Suddenly, the line was running off the reel, and she felt like she was going to fly over the pier’s railing.

How might the author finish this selection?

One answer could be “Mallory caught a huge hammerhead shark.”

PRACTICE

Read each selection and answer the questions that follow.

SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

September 25, 1981, was a great day in the history of the Supreme Court as well as a big step toward equal rights for women. On that date, Sandra Day O'Connor became the Supreme Court's 102nd justice and the first woman in its 191-year history. Justice O'Connor was born on March 26, 1930, in El Paso, Texas. She majored in economics at Stanford University and graduated magna cum laude (with high honors) in 1950. She received her law degree two years later, graduating third in a class of 102 students. Her colleague on the Supreme Court, William H. Rehnquist, graduated first. Before joining the Supreme Court, she was a member of the Arizona Senate, a superior court judge in Phoenix, and a judge of the Arizona court of appeals.

1. What could be another title for this selection?

2. How would you describe Sandra Day O'Connor?

GRAND DAY

For my birthday last year, my family and I went to Carowinds near Charlotte, North Carolina. It was the first year I was tall enough to ride the roller coasters. I could feel the wind swishing through my hair.

3. What could be another title for this selection?

4. How would you best describe the author's emotions?

5. How could the selection end?

JEMIMA

There was a little girl, and she had a little curl,
Right in the middle of her forehead,
And when she was good, she was very, very good,
But when she was bad she was horrid.

One day she went upstairs while her parents, unawares,
In the kitchen down below were at their meals,
And she stood upon her head, on her little truckle bed,
And she then began hurrayng with her heels.

Her mother heard the noise, and thought it was the boys,
A-playing at a combat in the attic,
But when she climbed the stair and saw Jemima there,
She took her and did spank her most emphatic!

6. What could be another title for this poem?

7. How would you finish this poem?

8. How would you describe Jemima?

HERCULES AND THE WAGONER

A wagoner was driving his team of horses along a very muddy road with a loaded wagon behind them. The wheels of the wagon sank so deep in the mud that the horses could not move the wagon.

As the wagoner stood there, looking helpless, he called out for Hercules to come and help him; the god appeared. Hercules said, "Put your shoulder to the wheel, man, push your horses and then you may call on Hercules to help you. If you won't lift a finger to help yourself, you can't expect Hercules or anyone else to help you."

9. How would you describe the wagoner?

10. What could be another title for this selection?

11. What would be a logical conclusion for this selection?

OLD GAELIC LULLABY

Hush! the waves are rolling in,
White with foam, white with foam.
Father toils amid the den,
But baby sleeps at home.

Hush! the winds roar hoarse and deep!
On they come, on they come.
Brother seeks the wandering sheep,
But baby sleeps at home.

Hush! the rain sweeps o'er the knowes
Where they roam, where they roam.
Sister goes to seek the cows,
But baby sleeps at home.

12. How are the waves described?

13. What could be another title for this poem?

14. How are the sheep described?

15. Which word best describes the roaring wind?

THE BOOK PROBLEM

Jeremy looked everywhere for his library book. The book was late, and he would have to pay a fine. He was very worried because he had never had a late book, or ever lost one before.

Kathy, Jeremy's sister, was laughing at him from her bedroom. She was using his library book as a bookend on her book shelf.

16. What would be an ending for his selection that would make Jeremy feel better?

17. Most likely, how was Jeremy feeling as he looked for the book?

18. What could be another title for this selection?

19. How might you best describe Kathy?

REVIEW

Answer each “description, title and conclusion” question.

RAP TAKES STAGE AS MUSICAL POETRY

1 While rap is a relatively new art form, it has strong roots in poetry and storytelling.

2 Gil Scott-Heron believed art could bring about change in society. In 1975, he performed his poem/spoken word piece “The Revolution Will Not Be Televised.” He talked about his anger towards people not paying attention to the African American struggle for equality. He used the piece to call for people to pay attention.

3 In the 1980s and '90s, rap grew into the music that we recognize today. Drum rhythms, music, and electronic “samples” are combined to create works full of energy and excitement.

4 But the poetry of rap comes with the words.

5 Rappers use rhymes and rhythms in their rapping to build a message and increase the enjoyment of their songs.

6 Many rap artists like Will Smith and TLC focus on themes like love and friendship, but others tell stories that they hope will change people’s minds about things.

7 Public Enemy, Lauryn Hill, Wyclef Jean and Queen Latifah are just some of the rap artists who have tried to reach people and change the world with their words.

1. What could be another title for this selection?
 - a. “Rhymes and Rhythm”
 - b. “Rap—A New Art Form”
 - c. “Public Enemy”
 - d. “Struggle”

2. Based on the information in paragraph 6, how could rap change society?
 - a. by being indifferent to the African American struggle
 - b. by telling stories that could change people’s minds about things
 - c. by sampling recordings
 - d. by expressing anger

3. What word best describes rap?
 - a. a speech
 - b. poetry
 - c. noise
 - d. equality

THE LION AND THE MOUSE

One day a great lion slept in the sunlight. A little mouse ran across his front paw and he awakened. The lion was about to eat the poor mouse when the mouse said, "Please, let me go, lion. I might help you some day."

The lion started laughing as he thought about a mouse helping him. He was a good-hearted lion so he let the mouse go free.

A few days later, the lion became caught in a net. He tried to get loose, but the ropes were too tight. He roared loudly, and the mouse heard him and came to see what was wrong.

"Oh, lion, I will gnaw the ropes and set you free."

The mouse cut the ropes with his sharp teeth and set the lion free from the net.

"You once laughed at me," said the mouse. "You thought that I was too small to help you. Now you see that you owe your life to a poor small mouse."

4. What could be another title for this selection?
 - a. "The Cowardly Lion"
 - b. "The Poor Mouse"
 - c. "A Mouse Hero"
 - d. "Too Small to Help"

5. Which word best describes the mouse?
 - a. scared
 - b. mean
 - c. sleepy
 - d. helpful

6. What could be a logical conclusion to this selection?
 - a. The lion killed the mouse.
 - b. The mouse teased the lion about getting caught.
 - c. The mouse and the lion became best friends.
 - d. The lion told the mouse he never wanted to see him again.

SIMPLE SIMON

Simple Simon met a pieman
Going to the fair;
Says Simple Simon to the pieman,
Let me taste your ware.

Says the pieman to Simple Simon,
Show me first your penny;
Says Simple Simon to the pieman,
Indeed I have not any.

Simple Simon went a-fishing,
For to catch a whale;
All the water he had got
Was in his mother's pail.

Once Simon made a great snowball,
And brought it in to roast;
He laid it down before the fire,
And soon the ball was lost.

He went to try if cherries ripe
Did grow upon a thistle;
He pricked his finger very much
Which made poor Simon whistle.

He went for water in a sieve,
But soon it all ran through;
And now poor Simple Simon
bids you all adieu.

7. How is Simon described?
- a. pieman
 - b. poor
 - c. ware
 - d. fair

8. What could be another title for this poem?
- a. "Poor Simon"
 - b. "The Pieman"
 - c. "A-Fishing We Go"
 - d. "Cherry Picking"
9. How would you describe the cherries?
- a. thistle
 - b. poor
 - c. ripe
 - d. roast
10. Which word best describes the snowball?
- a. great
 - b. down
 - c. mother's
 - d. adieu

A DOG AND HIS REFLECTION

One morning a dog took a pork chop from the table of his master.

He rushed outside before anyone could see him. He did not stop until he reached the forest nearby.

The dog had to cross a bridge. As he was crossing, he looked down into the river. He saw his reflection, but thought it was another dog with a bigger pork chop. He wanted to have that pork chop, too!

The dog started to growl and opened his mouth to grab the other dog's pork chop. When he opened his mouth, his pork chop fell into the water and sank. Instead of having two pork chops, the dog had none.

11. What could be another title for this selection?
 - a. "Pork Chops"
 - b. "The River"
 - c. "The Greedy Dog"
 - d. "A Sad Dog"

12. What best describes the dog?
 - a. satisfied
 - b. always wanting more
 - c. out of sight
 - d. trusting

A GOOD PLAY

We built a ship upon the stair
All made of the back-bedroom chairs,
And filled it full of sofa pillows
To go a-sailing on the billows.

We took a saw and several nails,
And water in the nursery pails;
And Tom said, "Let us also take
An apple and a slice of cake"—
Which was enough for Tom and me
To go a-sailing on, till tea.

We sailed along for days and days,
And had the very best of plays;
But Tom fell out and hurt his knee,
So there was no one left but me.

13. What could be another title for this poem?
 - a. "Sailing"
 - b. "Pillow Billows"
 - c. "Tom and Me"
 - d. "Cake"

14. Which of the following best describes the ship?
 - a. full of sofa pillows
 - b. made of the back-bedroom chairs
 - c. built upon the stairs
 - d. a slice of cake

CHARLES I

In 1625, Charles I, the son of James I, came to the throne of England. Charles, like his father, believed that the people of England should pay large amounts of taxes.

Charles was always calling on the Parliament for more tax increases. If the men in Parliament refused to do as he asked, he would dismiss them or throw them in jail.

Parliament grew tired of Charles I. They decided that they would no longer grant the tax increases and would demand the end to their members being thrown in jail.

Charles I refused to follow the rules made by the Parliament. A war began between the king's men and the Parliament's followers. The king was defeated.

15. What word best describes Charles I?
- a. loving
 - b. mean
 - c. exciting
 - d. brave
16. What could be another title for this selection?
- a. "A Great Leader"
 - b. "The Parliament"
 - c. "The Cruel King"
 - d. "Tax Increases"

17. What would be a logical conclusion for this selection?
- a. Charles I made many new friends.
 - b. Charles I cut taxes.
 - c. Charles I was made king a second time.
 - d. Charles I was put in jail.

BLACKBEARD

Blackbeard was one of the meanest and scariest pirates to sail along the North Carolina coast. He called himself Edward Teach, but some sources spell his name Thatch, or even Thach. It is generally believed that he was born in England around 1680 to a rich family. He was smart and could read and write, so he probably became a privateer during Queen Anne’s War. He became captain of a French ship he captured, and renamed it “Queen Anne’s Revenge.” After the war ended, he became a pirate.

Soon people began calling him Blackbeard because of his heavy beard. It helped pirates to look scary and to have people think they were mean and dangerous. So Blackbeard tried to look as scary as possible. He was a tall, big man. He grew a bushy black beard, braided it, and tied it with colored ribbons. Before fighting, he stuck pieces of slow-burning rope or wooden matches under his hat and lit the ends. With smoke coming out from his hat, he looked very scary.

There is no proof that he ever killed anyone until the battle when he was killed. He did not have to. Many ships surrendered as soon as they saw him. Many people thought he was the devil. Blackbeard was one of the most successful pirates to sail North Carolina’s waters. He was killed by the king’s navy in Ocracoke in 1718.

Legends say he may have buried treasure somewhere near the Outer Banks. Some treasure hunters think his treasure is buried near his Bath home, Plum Point. Others say it may be buried in Beaufort where he sometimes lived, or

in his other hangouts like Teach’s Hole, Holiday Island, or Elizabeth City.

18. Which of the following belongs in the empty space in the graphic organizer?

Blackbeard	mean
	scary
	?

- a. hangout
 b. smart
 c. smoking
 d. captured
19. What could be another title for this selection?
 a. “Queen Anne’s Revenge”
 b. “Ocracoke”
 c. “Edward Teach: Pirate”
 d. “The Outer Banks”
20. What could possibly happen near Plum Point?
 a. Blackbeard could come back to his house.
 b. Buried treasure could be found there.
 c. Pirates could take over the town.
 d. A legend could be born.

THE HONEST MAN

There was once a rabbi who decided to test the honesty of three of his best friends. He called them together and asked each of them this question.

“What would you do if you found a bag full of money on the side of the road?” he asked.

The first friend said, “I’d return it to its owner.”

The rabbi decided that his friend really didn’t mean what he said because he answered too quickly.

The second friend said, “I’d keep the money.”

The rabbi thought that this friend was honest in what he spoke, but had a wicked heart.

The third friend said, “I’d be tempted to keep it, but I’d pray that I would have the strength to do the right thing.”

The rabbi thought, “Here is the man that I can trust.”

21. What could be another title for this selection?
 - a. “The Rabbi’s Test”
 - b. “Truth or Lie”
 - c. “The Rabbi’s Journey”
 - d. “Three Best Friends”

22. Which of the following best describes the first friend?
 - a. not to be trusted
 - b. truthful
 - c. lazy
 - d. quick

23. Which of the following best describes the second friend?
 - a. honest
 - b. angry
 - c. lonely
 - d. dishonest

24. Which of the following least describes the third friend?
 - a. tempted
 - b. hopeful
 - c. dishonest
 - d. could be trusted

33. What effect did Anansi's eating all the yams have on Turtle?
 - a. He left Anansi's house very angry.
 - b. He ran to the creek to cool off.
 - c. He never spoke to Anansi again.
 - d. He was hungry, but invited Anansi to stop and share a meal with him.

34. What was the reason Anansi could not go to Turtle’s underwater table?
 - a. Anansi kept floating to the top.
 - b. Anansi could not swim.
 - c. Anansi did not like what Turtle had for supper.
 - d. Anansi had too many legs.

35. What effect did the pebbles have on Anansi?
 - a. Anansi continued to float on the surface.
 - b. Anansi sank to the bottom of the creek.
 - c. Anansi ate everything from the table.
 - d. Anansi tore his dinner jacket.

Chapter 6

36. What caused Anansi to be angry and hungry?
- Turtle asked Anansi to remove his jacket, and he floated to the surface.
 - Turtle ate all of the juicy crab.
 - Turtle did not wear a dinner jacket.
 - Anansi chomped on a pebble.