

7th Grade ELA

BLIZZARD BAG 1 – Miss Aggas, Mrs. Lonsberry and Mrs. Meek

Learning Targets:

I can make an inference based on textual evidence from a grade level reading.

I can analyze the impact of word choice on meaning and tone.

I can determine an author's point of view or purpose.

Name _____ Block Black Date _____

Title: **Blizzard Bag 1 - ELA - Aggas, Lonsberry & Meek**

1.

Volunteering

Volunteering can be a great way to spend your summer vacation. You're not only helping others in your community, but you're also having fun and staying busy. You can participate in a wide variety of volunteering opportunities. You can work at a food pantry or help a local non-profit group. The important thing is to find volunteer work that interests you and find a way to get involved. Volunteering can help you gain experience you will need later in life. It can also be a great way to make new friends. Try volunteering the next time you are out of school!

Which of these **best** describes the author's attitude toward volunteering?

- A. bored
- B. worried
- C. encouraging
- D. uncaring

2. Horses are some of the most majestic animals on earth. They are strong and powerful, yet gentle and calm if they are trained correctly. Horses can be used in therapy for children and adults with health problems. These people can gain better flexibility and balance from riding horses, as well as confidence in their physical ability.

If you have ever ridden a horse, you know how calming the experience can be. The horse seems to understand what its rider is feeling, and it can anticipate what the rider will do next.

For centuries, horses were used to transport goods and people from one place to another. Now, many people keep horses simply for the joy of riding them.



Which of these best describes the author's attitude toward horses?

- A. heartbroken
- B. unimpressed

- C. judgmental
 - D. appreciative
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3.

Ballet

Ballet is one of the most beautiful forms of dance and one of the most difficult dances to learn. One could spend years just perfecting the dance movements. Ballet dancers have to be strong yet graceful in their motions. While some people see ballet as an art form, some think of it as a sport. Ballet dancers must be in excellent physical shape. They need endurance to perform long routines, strength to jump into the air, balance to turn around on their toes, and flexibility to stretch their legs high into the air. Though other sports players get more recognition for their feats, dancers should at least be viewed as highly trained athletes.

Based on the passage, the reader can see that the author

- A. encourages people to dedicate years to learning ballet.
 - B. attends ballet performances often in sports arenas.
 - C. wants people to appreciate ballet dancers as athletes.
 - D. believes that ballet dancers are inferior to all athletes.
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4. Passage 1

Skateboarding is a sport just like any other. Many people look at skateboarders as though they were criminals. There is nothing illegal about the sport. However, because there are often not adequate facilities for practicing, skateboarders use public property. Instead of punishing skateboarders, we should work to build skate parks so they can practice safely and legally.

Passage 2

Skateboarders are a nuisance. They have no regard for the law. These people cause problems instead of simply practicing their skills. Skateboarding should be completely banned in the city limits, and the fines for breaking the ban should be larger. This would lower the city's overall crime rate.

How do the authors' attitudes toward skateboarding differ?

- A. The author of passage 1 approves of skateboarding; the author of passage 2 disapproves of skateboarding.

- B. The author of passage 1 is angry about skateboarding; the author of passage 2 is amused by skateboarding.
 - C. The author of passage 1 is excited about skateboarding; the author of passage 2 is confused by skateboarding.
 - D. The author of passage 1 likes skateboarding; the author of passage 2 does not have an opinion about skateboarding.
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5.

Unwind

The hot sun intensified the sharpness of Pete's face as he trudged along the beach. He breathed in the salty air and forgot about the pressures and responsibilities of school projects and chores around the house. Those things would be waiting for him, but now, he needed to unwind. Pete stretched his arms out. Then, he stepped into the damp sand on the shore and waited for the tide to come in. "Ah," Pete sighed. The water was perfect.

Pete waded deeper into the water and then dove headlong into the waves. Each blissful stroke eased the stress that had been building for weeks. Pete drew steady, deep breaths as he continued swimming toward the bobbing buoy. When he finally reached it, he turned around and eyed the beach. The golden sand's beauty inspired him and begged for his return. Pete calmly swam back to the shore. When he reached shallow water, he stood up and walked onto the beach. He grabbed his towel, shook the sand out, and wrapped it around him. Smiling softly, he strolled toward home whistling a peaceful tune.

Think about the way the author portrays the character of Pete. What is the author's attitude toward Pete?

- A. unfriendly
 - B. humorous
 - C. critical
 - D. sympathetic
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6.

The Thinker's Game

Time will tell
How often you have swiftly swung
Time will tell
Who it is that truly won

Time will tell
How the game was earnestly played
Time will tell
Whether the right decisions were made

So do your very best when you putt
Try not to go willfully against your gut

What words used in the poem contribute best to the author's admiring tone?

- A. "made" and "tell"
 - B. "truly" and "earnestly"
 - C. "time" and "decisions"
 - D. "swung" and "played"
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7. Women need to consume more dairy products than men because of the way their bodies work. Women are more likely to get osteoporosis, a disease that attacks the bones. Milk and other dairy products contain calcium, which makes bones stronger. Some studies have also shown that consuming enough dairy products can help women maintain their weight.

For people who do not like milk, there are other options. Yogurt, cheese, and ice cream are also dairy products. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) states that adult women should eat or drink at least three servings of dairy each day.

Based on the passage, it is clear that the author wants readers to

- A. eat the right foods to lose weight.
 - B. consume more dairy products.
 - C. help dairy farmers sell milk products.
 - D. consume yogurt instead of cheese.
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8.

Dawn

Birds tweet cheerfully
A rooster salutes
The rising sun beckons the dawn
The aches and dreads of yesterday
Are gone

Adventure calls expectantly
Arise quickly!
Do not delay!
Today will be a wonderful day

What best describes the tone throughout the poem?

- A. disappointed
- B. mocking
- C. amused
- D. hopeful

Baking 101

"You can't wear pink with red," Anne shouted at her friend Percy as she continued flipping through the latest edition of *Fashionista* magazine. "It just doesn't look right. Well, I guess if you wear the right shade of pink it—"

"Is that the oven?" Percy suddenly yelled over the music. Anne put down the magazine and turned down the radio.

"It's ready!" Anne exclaimed as she jumped up and ran into the kitchen. *Beep! Beep! Beep! Beep!* Anne turned off the oven and reached for an oven mitt. The smell of fresh baked bread brought a smile to her face. Her stomach grumbled in anticipation of apple butter on a warm slice of bread. Anne had barely set the bread pan on the stovetop when her smile faded. Instead of a springy loaf, she saw a hot brick. "What happened?" she whined. After her previous misadventures in baking, she had taken special care to re-read the recipe and gather all the necessary ingredients and utensils. "The loaf shouldn't be this small," Anne remarked.

Percy glanced at a small glass jar resting near the front edge of the counter. It glared at them from across the room. "You forgot the yeast," Percy spoke up. "The bread didn't rise because you forgot to add yeast." Anne's cheeks reddened as she realized that she had fumbled the directions again.

Then, remembering the apple butter, Anne shrugged her shoulders and announced, "I'm going to use that prepackaged bread mix." She gleefully skipped over to the pantry to get the package. "I just need to add water, oil, and eggs," she beamed.

"Round three!" Percy laughed.

9. How does the word "shrugged" show the author's attitude toward Anne?

- A. It shows that the author thinks Anne as a difficult person.
 - B. It shows that the author thinks Anne is a cheerful person.
 - C. It reveals that the author believes Anne is an impatient person.
 - D. It reveals that the author believes Anne is a hopeless person.
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10. Read the following sentence from the passage.

Her stomach grumbled in anticipation of apple butter on a warm slice of bread.

How does the word "anticipation" contribute to the tone of the passage?

- A. It demonstrates how disappointed Anne is in the bread.
- B. It tells the reader that Anne is nervous about baking.
- C. It proves that Anne is cheerful when she is baking.
- D. It shows that Anne is looking forward to fresh bread.

Dog Training Me?

by Bryan Ellett

My new dog is a mutt, or a mix of breeds, most likely a mix between a basset hound and a beagle. No one knows for sure, though. His name is Capote, and he is a really attractive dog, small but sturdy. He has great posture and always looks proud, sticking his chest out slightly and standing tall. There is only one problem, but it's a big problem: he won't fetch.

Actually, it's worse than that. Not only will he not fetch, he's making me play *his* game! I throw the ball, and Capote goes running after it, as if fetch is the thing in the world he most enjoys. He begins bringing the ball back to me, but then he runs right past me. I follow him, reaching for the ball and trying to pull it out of his mouth, but he keeps turning away from me, teasing me with the ball! He's not playing fetch; he's playing "come chase me!" And he's training me to do it, too!

Once I realized this, I read some books, and I've changed my strategy. If he runs past me with the ball, I don't follow him, and I don't reach for the ball. Instead, I turn my back on him and ignore him. He really does like to play, so me ignoring him is a tremendous punishment! Eventually, he'll bring the ball over to me, and once he does, I immediately throw it. That way, he knows that he'll be rewarded with another throw if he brings me the ball. He is not a perfect fetch player yet, but I can now tell that one day he will be!

11. Which statement is supported by the story?

- A. The dog will never learn how to play fetch.
- B. The narrator taught his dog the wrong way to fetch.
- C. The dog does not enjoy playing with the narrator.
- D. The narrator enjoys playing with his dog.

12. The reader can **infer** that

- A. Capote is not very smart.
- B. some dogs will never fetch.
- C. dogs can be trained to fetch.
- D. young dogs cannot play games.