



Grade **6**

NEW MEXICO

ENGLISH

LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY

NM-MSSA Practice



2 Summative Assessments

3 ELA Domains

Covers 40+ Skills

Chapter 2

Lesson 1: Analysis of Key Events and Ideas

Question 1 is based on the paragraph below

As it poured outside, I settled down by the window to watch the rain. The green park opposite my house looked even more green and fresh than usual. Strong winds shook the branches of the tall trees. Some of the branches swayed so hard in the strong winds that I thought they would break.

1. Why is the author using such clear descriptions?

- Ⓐ just to say that it was raining hard
- Ⓑ creating imagery to show the reader what that moment was like
- Ⓒ to tell us that the wind was blowing
- Ⓓ to explain what the trees look like when it rains

Question 2 and 3 are based on the poem below

The Forest's Sentinel

At night, when all is still
The forest's sentinel
Glides silently across the hill
And perches in an old pine tree,
A friendly presence his!
No harm can come
From night bird on the prowl.
His cry is mellow,
Much softer than a peacock's call.
Why then this fear of owls
Calling in the night?
If men must speak,
Then owls must hoot-
They have the right.
On me it casts no spell:
Rather, it seems to cry,
"The night is good- all's well, all's well."

-- RUSKIN BOND

2. From what point of view is the above poem?

- Ⓐ First person point of view - from the owl's perspective
- Ⓑ 3rd person point of view - from an unknown bystander or the author
- Ⓒ First person point of view - from another animal's perspective
- Ⓓ None of the above

3. According to the above poem when does the Owl come out?

- Ⓐ at night
- Ⓑ at dawn
- Ⓒ at dusk
- Ⓓ at noon

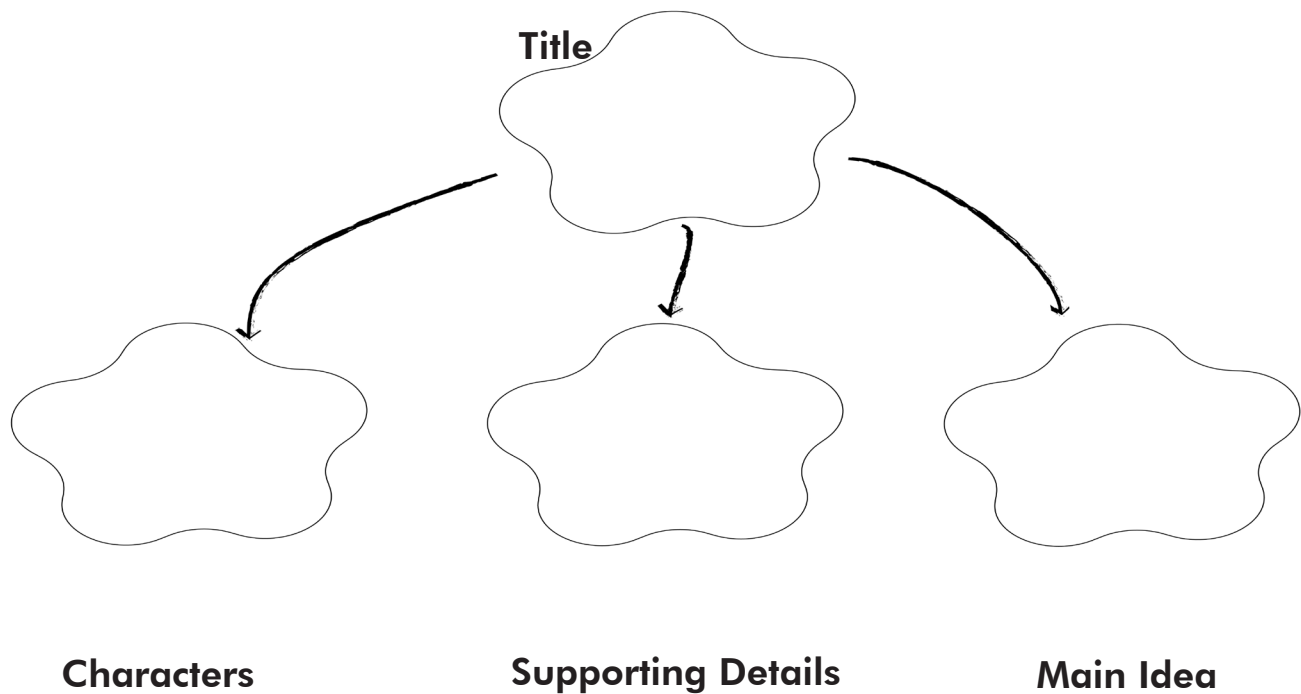
Question 4 and 5 are based on the story below

After reading the story, enter the details in the map below. This will help you to answer the questions that follow.

Once upon a time, four boys lived in the countryside. One boy was very clever, but he did not like books. His name was Good Sense. The other boys were not very clever, but they read every book in the school. When they became grown men, they decided to go out into the world to earn their livelihood.

They left home and came to a forest where they halted for the night. When they woke up in the morning, they found the bones of a lion. Three of them, who had learned their books well at school, decided to make a lion out of the bones.

Good Sense told them, "A lion is a dangerous animal. It will kill us. Don't make a lion." But the three disregarded his advice and started making a lion. Good Sense was very clever. When his friends were busy making the lion, he climbed up a tree to save himself. No sooner had the three young men created the lion and gave it life, than it pounced upon them and ate them up. Good Sense climbed down the tree and went home very sadly.



4. Part A

What did they see in the forest when they woke up in the morning?

- (A) the bones of a lion
- (B) a witch that could bring an animal to life
- (C) Good Sense hiding in a tree
- (D) none of the above

Part B

What did the four friends decide when they became grown men?

- (A) They decided to go out into the world and earn their livelihood.
- (B) They decided to play with animal bones.
- (C) They decided to be friends forever.
- (D) They decided to never leave home.

5. What advice did Good Sense give his friends?

- (A) He told them how to create the lion.
- (B) He told them how to beat the lion once it was created.
- (C) He told them not to create the lion.
- (D) He told them to hide from the lion once they created it.

Question 6 is based on the story below

After reading the story, enter the details in the map below. This will help you to answer the questions that follow.

One evening, long after most people had gone to bed, a friend and I were making our way merrily back home through the silent and almost deserted streets. We had been to a musical show and were talking about the actor we had seen and heard in it.

"That show made him a star overnight," said my friend about one of the actors. "He was completely unknown before, and now thousands of teenagers send him chocolates and love letters through the mail."

"I thought he was quite good," I said, "but not worth thousands of love letters daily. As a matter of fact, one of his songs gave me pain."

"What was that?" my friend asked. "Sing to me." I burst into a parody of the song.

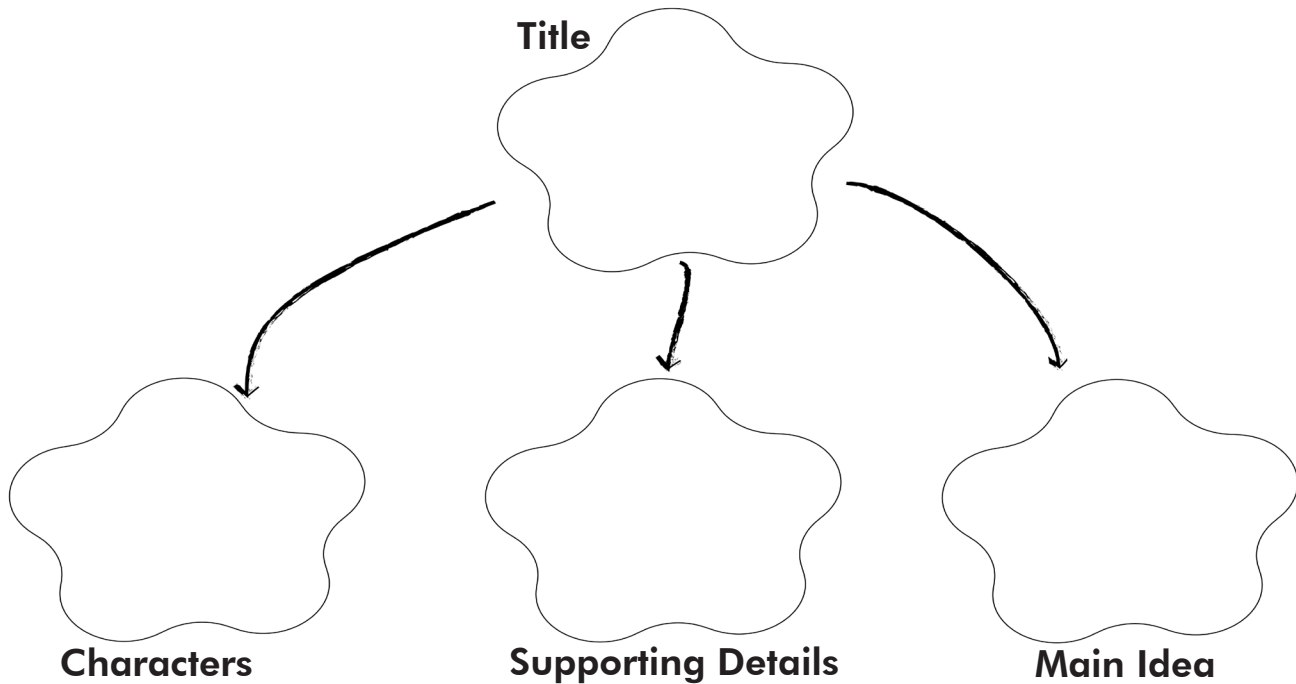
"Be quiet for heaven's sake!" My friend gave me an astonished look. "You'll give everybody a fright and wake people for miles around."

"Never mind," I said, intoxicated with the sound of my own voice. "I don't care. Why does it matter?"

And I went on singing the latest tunes at the top of my voice.

Suddenly, there came behind us the sound of heavy footsteps, and before I could say "Jack Robinson," a policeman was standing in front of me, his notebook open, and a determined look on his face.

"Excuse me, sir," he said. "You have a remarkable voice if I may say so. Who taught you to sing? I'd very much like to find someone who can give my daughter singing lessons. Would you be kind enough to tell me your name and address? Then my wife or I can drop you a line and discuss the matter."



6. Why was the friend telling the singer to be quiet?

- Ⓐ He did not like the sound of the singer's voice.
- Ⓑ He was embarrassed.
- Ⓒ He was worried that it would wake people for miles around.
- Ⓓ Because the policeman told them to be quiet.

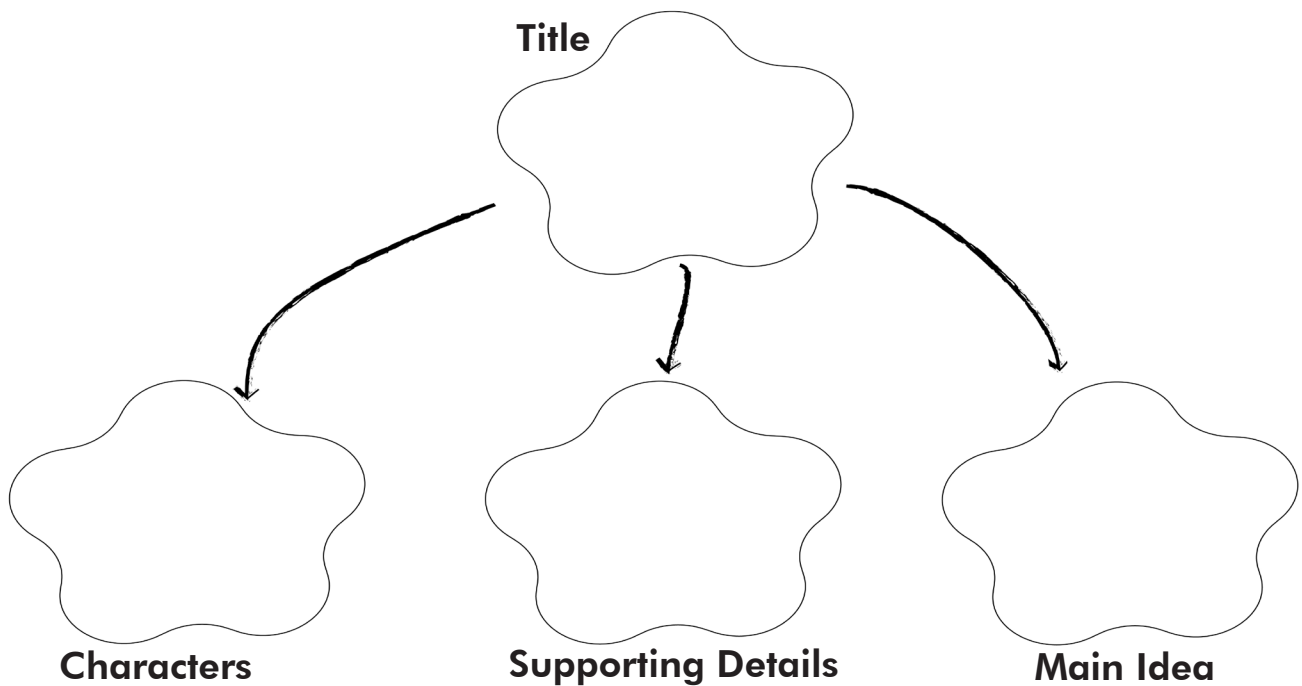
Question 7 is based on the story below

After reading the story, enter the details in the map below. This will help you to answer the questions that follow.

The sky was dark and overcast. It had been raining all night long, and there was no sign of it stopping. I thought that my Sunday would be ruined. As it poured outside, I settled down by the window to watch the rain. The park opposite my house looked even more green and fresh than usual. The branches of the tall trees swayed so hard in the strong wind that I thought they would break. A few children were splashing about in the mud puddles and having a wonderful time. I wished I could join them too! There were very few people out on the road and those who were hurried on their way, wrapped in raincoats and carrying umbrellas.

My mother announced that lunch was ready. It was piping hot and very welcoming in the damp weather. We spent the afternoon listening to music and to the downpour outside.

In the evening, we chatted and made paper boats that we meant to sail in the stream of water outside. It was not a bad day, after all!



7. What detail in the above passage tells us that the writer yearned to play outside?

- Ⓐ The park opposite my house looked even more green and fresh.
- Ⓑ We spent the afternoon listening to music and to the downpour outside.
- Ⓒ I wished I could join them too!
- Ⓓ All of the above

Question 8 is based on the poem below

Faster than fairies, faster than witches,
 Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches,
 And charging along like troops in a battle,
 All through the meadows the horses and cattle,
 All of the sights of the hill and the plain,
 Fly as thick as driving rain,
 And ever again, in the wink of an eye,
 Painted stations whistle by.

Here is a child who clambers and scrambles,
 All by himself and gathering brambles;
 Here is a tramp who stands and gazes,
 And there is the green for stringing the daisies;
 Here is a cart run away in the road,
 Lumping along with man and load;
 And here is a mill and there is a river,
 Each a glimpse and gone forever.

-- R. L. STEVENSON

8. What detail in the above poem tells us that this poem is about the view from inside a train?

- Ⓐ All of the sights of the hill and the plain, Fly as thick as driving rain
- Ⓑ Faster than fairies, faster than witches, Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches,
- Ⓒ And ever again, in the wink of an eye, Painted stations whistle by.
- Ⓓ Here is a cart run away in the road

Question 9 is based on the story below

Excerpt from Arabian Nights, Aladdin

After these words, the magician drew a ring off his finger, and put it on one of Aladdin's, telling him that it was a preservative against all evil, while he should observe what he had prescribed to him. After this instruction he said: "Go down boldly, child, and we shall both be rich all our lives."

Aladdin jumped into the cave, descended the steps, and found the three halls just as the African magician had described. He went through them with all the precaution the fear of death could inspire; crossed the garden without stopping, took down the lamp from the niche, threw out the wick and the liquor, and, as the magician had desired, put it in his vestband. But as he came down from the terrace, he stopped in the garden to observe the fruit, which he only had a glimpse of in crossing it. All the trees were loaded with extraordinary fruit, of different colors on each tree. Some bore fruit entirely white, and some clear and transparent as crystal; some pale red, and others deeper; some green, blue, and purple, and others yellow: in short, there were fruits of all colors. The white were pearls; the clear and transparent, diamonds; the deep red, rubies; the green, emeralds; the blue, turquoises; the purple, amethysts; and those that were of yellow cast, sapphires. Aladdin was altogether ignorant of their worth, and would have preferred figs and grapes, or any other fruits. But though he took them only for colored glass of little value, yet he was so pleased with the variety of the colors, and the beauty and extraordinary size of the seeming fruit, that he resolved to gather some of every sort; and accordingly filled the two new purses his uncle had bought for him with his clothes. Some he wrapped up in the skirts of his vest, which was of silk, large and full, and he crammed his bosom as full as it could hold.

Aladdin, having thus loaded himself with riches, returned through the three halls with the same precaution, made all the haste he could, that he might not make his uncle wait, and soon arrived at the mouth of the cave, where the African magician expected him with the utmost impatience. As soon as Aladdin saw him, he cried out: "Pray, uncle, lend me your hand, to help me out." "Give me the lamp first," replied the magician; "it will be troublesome to you." "Indeed, uncle," answered Aladdin, "I cannot now; it is not troublesome to me: but I will as soon as I am up." The African magician was so obstinate, that he would have the lamp before he would help him up; and Aladdin, who had encumbered himself so much with his fruit that he could not well get at it, refused to give it to him till he was out of the cave. The African magician, provoked at this obstinate refusal, flew into a passion, threw a little of his incense into the fire, which he had taken care to keep in, and no sooner pronounced two magical words, than the stone which had closed the mouth of the cave moved into its place, with the earth over it in the same manner as it lay at the arrival of the magician and Aladdin.

9. What did the magician put on one of Aladdin's fingers? Write your answer in the box below.

Answer Key and Detailed Explanations

Chapter 2: Reading: Literature

Lesson 1: Analysis of Key Events and Ideas

Question No.	Answer	Detailed Explanations
1	B	The author used descriptive language to grab the reader's attention. The author wants the reader to be able to imagine what the moment is like. It was raining and the wind was blowing, but the author's point was for the reader to be able to picture it.
2	B	Although the author is talking about the night owl, the point of view is that of the author.
3	A	The poem mentions that it's a night bird and, in the end it is mentioned again. The answer is A.
4 Part A	A	Answer A is correct. Upon reading the passage, you will see in the second paragraph that it directly says that they found the bones of a lion.
4 Part B	A	If you chose A, you read the passage correctly. The last sentence in the first paragraph gives the correct answer.
5	C	If you chose answer C, you got it right. Good Sense told the other men NOT to create the lion.
6	C	Answer C is the correct answer because it's a direct quote in the story that the friend was afraid the singing would disturb others. The policeman was not behind them yet, or at least had not been noticed. There was no mention of the friend being embarrassed.
7	C	The only answer choice that shows a desire to play outside is C.
8	C	Answer choice C is correct. The fact that it goes by stations tells you that you're on a train.
9	Ring	Ring. This is given in the very first paragraph of the passage.

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