New England Common Assessment Program

Released Items Support Materials 2007

Grade 8 Reading

NECAP 2007 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 8 READING

7.2.1 **Students identify the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary by** using strategies to unlock meaning (e.g., knowledge of word structure, including prefixes/suffixes, base words, common roots, or word origins; or context clues; or other resources, such as dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses; or prior knowledge)

Use the definitions below to answer the question.

order (*or′ der*) *n*. **1.** peaceful situation **2.** a sequence **3.** a command **4.** that which is supplied, bought, or sold

1 The streets returned to order after the looting.

Which is the **best** definition of the word order as it is used in this sentence?

A. definition 1
B. definition 2
C. definition 3
D. definition 4

7.3.1 **Shows breadth of vocabulary knowledge through demonstrating understanding of word meanings and relationships by** identifying synonyms, antonyms, homonyms/homophones, or shades of meaning

2 A synonym for the word retain is

A. reply.
B. close.
C. keep.
D. scold.

THE CLEVER THIEF
Literary Text

7.2.1 **Students identify the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary by** using strategies to unlock meaning (e.g., knowledge of word structure, including prefixes/suffixes, base words, common roots, or word origins; or context clues; or other resources, such as dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses; or prior knowledge)

3 In paragraph 2, the word gruffly means

A. simply.
B. seriously.
C. lazily.
D. roughly.

7.5.2 **Analyze and interpret elements of literary texts, citing evidence where appropriate by** describing characters' traits, motivation, or interactions, citing thoughts, words, or actions that reveal characters' traits, motivations, or their changes over time

4 In paragraphs 2 through 5, what is the jailkeeper's attitude toward the thief?

A. disrespectful
B. regretful
C. concerned
D. panicked

THE CLEVER THIEF
Literary Text

7.2.1 **Students identify the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary by** using strategies to unlock meaning (e.g., knowledge of word structure, including prefixes/suffixes, base words, common roots, or word origins; or context clues; or other resources, such as dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses; or prior knowledge)

5 In paragraph 17, the word reap means to

A. obtain.
B. buy.
C. build.
D. present.

7.4.2 **Demonstrate initial understanding of elements of literary texts by** paraphrasing or summarizing key ideas/plot, with major events sequenced, as appropriate to text

6 According to the thief, the plum pit will yield golden plums only if

A. the plum is old and rotten.
B. the thief is still in jail.
C. the planter is honest.
D. the owner likes plums.

THE CLEVER THIEF
Literary Text

7.5.2 **Analyze and interpret elements of literary texts, citing evidence where appropriate by** describing characters' traits, motivation, or interactions, citing thoughts, words, or actions that reveal characters' traits, motivations, or their changes over time

7 Describe how the king changes during this folktale. Use details from the folktale to support your answer.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough description of the way the king changes during this folktale. Response includes relevant details from the folktale.
3	Response provides a description of the way the king changes during this folktale. Response includes some relevant details from the folktale.
2	Response provides a partial description of how the king changes during this folktale. Response uses limited details from the folktale.
1	Response is vague or minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

Training Notes:

The student should use details and description from the folktale to describe how the king changes over time. The response may include:

- At first, the king is curious but in a hurry.
- The king becomes enraged at the sight of the plum pit.
- The king becomes silent at the news about the golden plum.
- The king becomes regretful for his one little act of stealing.
- The king admits his misdeeds.
- The king is humbled by the experience; he suggests they all pay the clever thief's fine.
- At the end of the folktale, the king has learned a lesson and will remember it well.

SCORE POINT 4

7

The King changes during the course of the folktale. When we first meet him, he is very "impressive and stern". Later he is angry because the thief has brought him a plum pit. After the thief announces that it is no ordinary plum pit, the king is curious, and says, "What do you mean by that?" Upon learning that the pit will produce golden plums once planted, the King is suspicious. "Well, if that's the case, why haven't you planted it yourself?" he asks.

The thief reveals that only people who have never stolen or cheated may reap the benefit. The King is regretful, but also honest, because he stole pennies from his mother's purse as a boy. The thief offered the pit to everyone else in the room, but no one accepted. The thief berates them for stealing and not being punished. As a final change, the King is shameful and offers to pay the thief's fine.

Response provides a thorough description of the way the king changes in this folktale. Response includes relevant details from the folktale.

SCORE POINT 3

7

In the tale that the thief presents upon the king changes the king in several way. One way that he changed was that at first the king was mad of seeing what was inside of the box. Then as the thief went on the king got a little happy because he heard about the olden days. After that he felt ashamed because he knew that he has done some bad things as well in his life like others have too. Then because of that the king fell embarrased because of what has done and let go the thief.

Response provides a description of the way the king changes in this folktale. Response includes some relevant details from the folktale.

Score Point 2

7

The king changes because the thief says that only Someone who haden't stolen or cheated could get the golden plum tree. The king did not get the tree because he had stolen in his past. The king and the other people in the room felt bad that they stolen or cheated So they let the thief go free.

Response provides a partial description of how the king changes in this folktale. Response uses limited details from the folktale.

Score Point 1

❼

The king changes from being angry to being nice and letting the thief out of jail.

Response is vague or minimal.

Score Point 0

❼

The King gets older during the folktale.

Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

THE CLEVER THIEF
Literary Text

7.4.2 **Demonstrate initial understanding of elements of literary texts by** paraphrasing or summarizing key ideas/plot, with major events sequenced, as appropriate to text

8 What stops all of the officials from taking the plum pit?

A. They decide planting it is too much work.
B. They have guilty consciences.
C. They want to see golden plums.
D. They hope someone else will take it.

7.5.2 **Analyze and interpret elements of literary texts, citing evidence where appropriate by** describing characters' traits, motivation, or interactions, citing thoughts, words, or actions that reveal characters' traits, motivations, or their changes over time

9 In paragraph 35, what was the thief **most likely** looking for when "he searched their faces earnestly"?

A. shame
B. pride
C. power
D. greed

THE CLEVER THIEF
Literary Text

7.5.3 **Analyze and interpret elements of literary texts, citing evidence where appropriate by** making inferences about cause/effect (e.g., explaining how an event gives rise to the next), internal or external conflicts (e.g., person versus self, person versus person, person versus nature/society/fate), or the relationship among elements within text

10 The **most likely** reason the king and other officials pay the thief's fine is because they are

A. wealthy.
B. ashamed.
C. grateful.
D. suspicious.

7.5.1 **Analyze and interpret elements of literary texts, citing evidence where appropriate by** explaining or supporting logical predictions

11 What will the jailkeeper in this folktale **most likely** do next?

A. ask permission to plant the plum pit
B. confess his misconduct to the king
C. treat his prisoners more fairly
D. try to put the thief back in jail

THE CLEVER THIEF
Literary Text

7.4.2 **Demonstrate initial understanding of elements of literary texts by** paraphrasing or summarizing key ideas/plot, with major events sequenced, as appropriate to text

12 Explain how the thief uses the plum pit to free himself from jail. Use information from the folktale to support your answer.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of how the thief uses the plum pit to free himself. Response includes relevant information from the folktale.
3	Response provides an explanation of how the thief uses the plum pit to free himself. Response includes some relevant information from the folktale.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of how the thief uses the plum pit to free himself. Response uses limited information from the folktale.
1	Response is vague or minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

Training Notes:

- The thief makes up the story about the plum pit growing a tree with golden plums if planted by an honest person.
- The thief used the plum pit to outsmart the king and officials.
- The thief used the plum pit to show that everyone needs to be careful of judging others—because everyone's actions and motives can be judged.
- The thief used the plum pit to show that people should learn from their mistakes—lessons learned.

SCORE POINT 4

12

In the story, the clever theif comes up with a way to get out of jail without escaping. The theif takes a plum pit to the King as a gift, telling him that only those who have not Stolen or cheated can have the magic of the golden plums. When the King turns down the gift after realizing that he has stolen something before, the theif turns to the other people present in the room. Alas, all the members of the room have stolen before. The thief laughs at this, wondering why he was jailed for stealing some spices when the other men had also stolen and were still free men. The King realized how this was unfair to the theif, so in hopes of somehow making it up to him, he sets the theif free. The theif of course knew this was going to happen the whole time, which is what made him so clever.

Response provides a thorough explanation of how the thief uses the plum pit to free himself. Response includes relevant information from the folktale.

Score Point 3

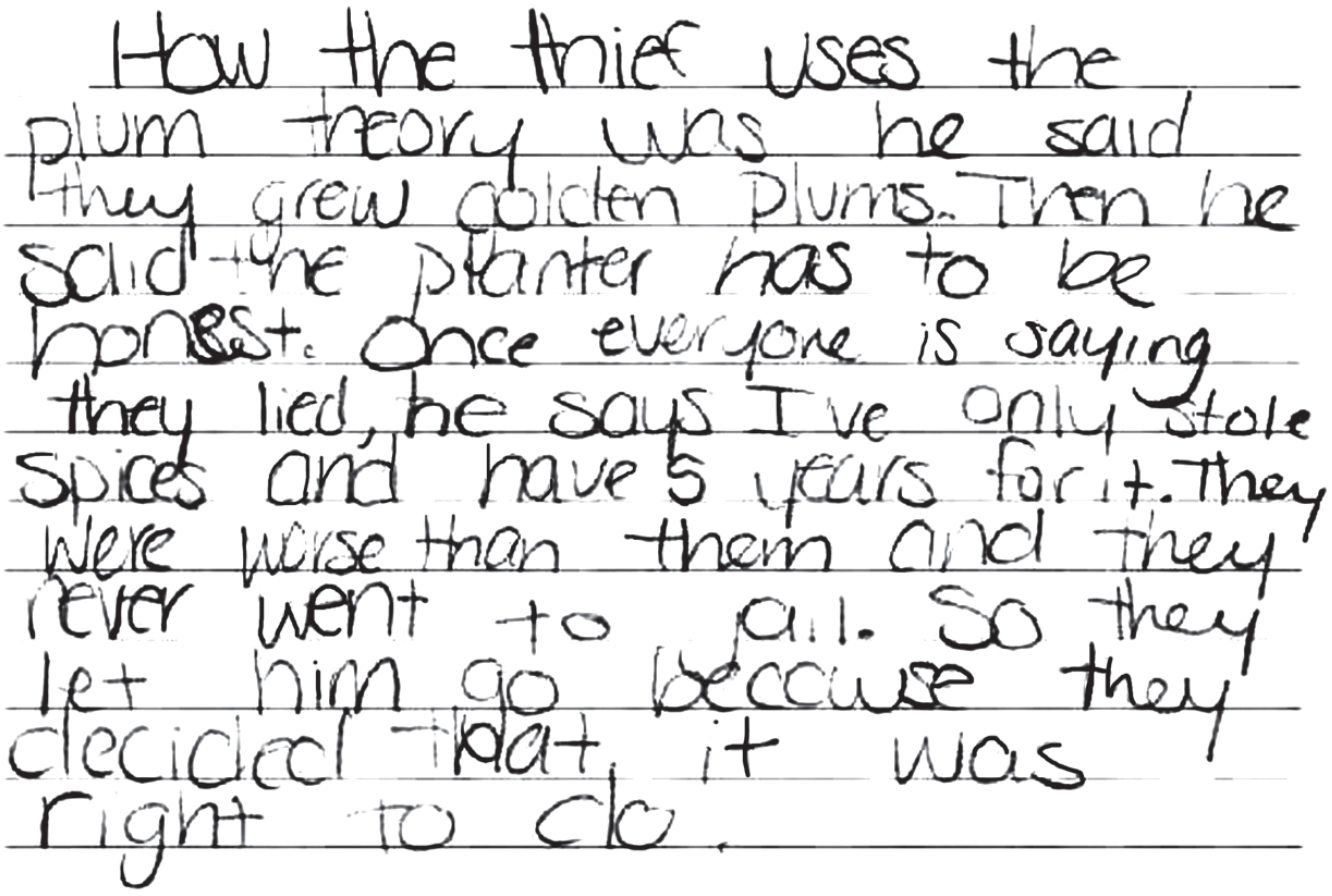
12

The thief says that the plum pit is magical and if the has not cheated or stole something it will grow golden plums, but if you have cheated or stole something then the tree will only grow regular plums and not golden plums. When the thief tells the royalty's they all turn the plum pit down because they have done something wrong and they know that they cannot accept the plum pit because they have either cheated or stole something in thier past lifetime and if they accept the plum pit it would be wrong for them to accept it because of what they had done earlier in life.

Response provides an explanation of how the thief uses the plum pit to free himself. Response includes some relevant information from the folktale.

Score Point 2

12



Response provides a partial explanation of how the thief uses the plum pit to free himself. Response uses limited information from the folktale.

Score Point 1

12

He used the plam pit to get them to confes their crimes and set him free.

Response is vague or minimal.

Score Point 0

12

The thief uses the plumb tree to help him in jail by growing right outside of the window so it grows and he can climb down it.

Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.