



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
Support Materials
2011**

**Grade 8
Reading**

**NECAP 2011 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)

1 The root *graph* in the words autograph and biography means

- A. to tell.
- B. to write.
- C. to change.
- D. to create.

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 An **antonym** for the word detach is

- A. mock.
- B. sting.
- C. connect.
- D. produce.

The Boy Who Gave His Brother the Best Pear Literary Text

(The passage for these questions is located in Released Items 2011 – Grade 8 Reading.)

7.4.1 Demonstrate initial understanding of elements of literary texts by identifying or describing character(s), setting, problem/solution, or plot, as appropriate to text; or identifying any significant changes in character or setting over time; or identifying rising action, climax, or falling action

- 3 Kong Rong is different from his older brothers because he is
- A. helpful with his father's work.
 - B. generous to his younger brother.
 - C. able to read ancient Chinese writings.
 - D. able to hide his faults from his father.

7.4.1 Demonstrate initial understanding of elements of literary texts by identifying or describing character(s), setting, problem/solution, or plot, as appropriate to text; or identifying any significant changes in character or setting over time; or identifying rising action, climax, or falling action

- 4 Which word **best** describes the doorman when he opens the door for Kong Rong?
- A. hospitable
 - B. annoyed
 - C. curious
 - D. pitiful

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- 5 The doorman announces Kong Rong to Master Li because he
- A. hopes that Kong Rong will eventually reward him.
 - B. thinks that Kong Rong can provide some amusement.
 - C. wants to impress Master Li by bowing to him.
 - D. worries that Kong Rong may be Master Li's relative.

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- 6 In paragraph 19, the word intimidated means
- A. afraid.
 - B. worthy.
 - C. comfortable.
 - D. annoyed.

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7.4.1 Demonstrate initial understanding of elements of literary texts by identifying or describing character(s), setting, problem/solution, or plot, as appropriate to text; or identifying any significant changes in character or setting over time; or identifying rising action, climax, or falling action

- 7 Describe how other characters in the folktale react to what Kong Rong says and does. Use details from the folktale to support your answer.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough description of how other characters in the folktale react to what Kong Rong says and does. Response includes relevant details from the folktale.
3	Response provides a description of how other characters in the folktale react to what Kong Rong says and does. Response includes some relevant details from the folktale.
2	Response provides a partial description of how other characters in the folktale react to what Kong Rong says and/or does. Response includes limited details from the folktale.
1	Response is vague or minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

Training Notes:

Responses may include reactions of Kong Rong's father, the doorman, Master Li, the scholars, the official, and the crowd. Details from the folktale must support the reactions.

7

Different characters react to Kong Rong in a variety of ways. Kong Rong's father reacts to his action of giving the best pear to his younger brother with pride. Kong Rong's father is proud that his son would perform such a kind and selfless deed, and his "father was touched." An official who serves Master Li reacted to Kong Rong's poise and knowledge with envy that he is not as wise as Kong Rong is. This official was jealous and tried to imply to Master Li that Kong Rong would not always be clever. However, Master Li taught Kong Rong and developed a teacher's pride to be in the company of and enhance the knowledge of such a wise and devoted young boy. Characters generally were surprised in different ways about the kindness, maturity, and wisdom of Kong Rong.

Response provides a thorough description of how other characters in the folktale react to what Kong Rong says and does. Response includes relevant details from the folktale.

NECAP 2011 RELEASED ITEMS
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SCORE POINT 3

7

Kong Rong does some things that make other people proud for him. In the beginning of the story when they all get the pears. Kong's two older brothers immediately go for the best pears for themselves. But Kong gives the next best pear to his younger brother because his father had told him he needed to watch out for his younger brother. This made Kong's father very happy and proud of Kong. Also when he gets to Master Li's house and stands up to one of the officials. That made Master Li very impressed with Kong which was probably one of the reasons he took him in as a pupil.

Response provides a description of how other characters in the folktale react to what Kong Rong says and does. Response includes some relevant details from the folktale.

NECAP 2011 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 8 READING

SCORE POINT 2

7

Some characters react to Kong Rong in different ways. Like his dad becomes very proud of his son for giving the best pear to his younger brother. Master Li feels honored to teach Kong Rong.

Response provides a partial description of how other characters in the folktale react to what Kong Rong says and/or does. Response includes limited details from the folktale.

NECAP 2011 RELEASED ITEMS
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SCORE POINT 1

7 The other characters in the story
are amazed that the boy is so wise.

Response is vague or minimal.

SCORE POINT 0

7 He goes to the City to Studdle
and he is really nice to his brother
All he wants to do is be kind
and caring.

Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

The Boy Who Gave His Brother the Best Pear Literary Text

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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)

- 8 In paragraph 22, the word poised means
- A. calm.
 - B. eager.
 - C. hostile.
 - D. humorous.

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

- 9 What is Kong Rong's **main** goal?
- A. to get a ride from a farmer
 - B. to study harder than his brothers
 - C. to become Master Li's student
 - D. to be respectful of everyone

The Boy Who Gave His Brother the Best Pear Literary Text

(The passage for these questions is located in Released Items 2011 – Grade 8 Reading.)

7.6.1 Analyze and interpret author’s craft, citing evidence where appropriate by demonstrating knowledge of use of literary elements and devices (i.e., imagery, exaggeration, repetition, flashback, foreshadowing, personification) to analyze literary works

- 10 Kong Rong’s self-confidence is shown when he
- A. gives the pear to his brother.
 - B. stands up to the envious official.
 - C. reveals that Confucius is his ancestor.
 - D. passes the imperial examinations.

7.5.4 Analyze and interpret elements of literary texts, citing evidence where appropriate by explaining how the narrator’s point of view affects the reader’s interpretation

- 11 The point of view of the folktale allows the reader to know the thoughts and opinions of
- A. the author.
 - B. only the father.
 - C. only the main character.
 - D. all of the characters.

The Boy Who Gave His Brother the Best Pear Literary Text

(The passage for these questions is located in Released Items 2011 – Grade 8 Reading.)

7.5.5 Analyze and interpret elements of literary texts, citing evidence where appropriate by explaining how the author’s message or theme is supported within the text

- 12 Explain the theme or message of this folktale. Use details from the folktale to support your answer.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of the theme or message of this folktale. Response includes relevant details from the folktale.
3	Response provides an explanation of the theme or message of this folktale. Response includes some relevant details from the folktale.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of the theme or message of this folktale. Response includes limited details from the folktale.
1	Response is vague or minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

Training Notes:

Possible messages or themes may be about character, the love of learning, how it is not just who you know that gets you where you want to go, having high goals, or being determined. This list is not all inclusive.

12 The theme or message from this folktale is that if you put your mind to something and you work hard then you can achieve almost anything. Kong demonstrated this by reading and studying. He took care of his brother to show that he had patience and cared. When he gave his younger brother the best pear he showed he was not selfish at all, he showed love, care and he showed his father how special he was. He read almost all the time and tried to learn as much as he could. When he heard about the great, Master Li he wanted to become his student. He wanted to become Li's student to learn more and become wise. He did not want to become famous, he wanted knowledge. When Kong set out to see Master Li he was accepted. Kong Rong was the son that carried out the tradition of Confucius.

Response provides a thorough explanation of the theme or message of this folktale. Response includes relevant details from the folktale.

12

The theme of this folktale is respect. At the beginning of the story, when Hong Rong's father tells him that he needs to care for his younger brother, Hong Rong respects him and does what he asks. When the father saw how well of a job Hong Rong did, he respected him more. When Hong Rong wanted to go to the capital city to study, his father respected his wishes and let him go. When he got to Master Li's estate, Hong Rong respected the scholar so he let him study with him. Once Hong Rong had shown how smart and devoted he was, Master Li respected him. It was because of respect that Hong Rong went on his journey to become better and wiser.

Response provides an explanation of the theme or message of this folktale. Response includes some relevant details from the folktale.

NECAP 2011 RELEASED ITEMS
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SCORE POINT 2

12

The message of this folktale is that if you believe in yourself then you can do anything. Like when Kong Rong gave the best pear to his little brother he believed what his father had told him, that it was his duty to look out for his brother. Later on he believed that he would be a student of master Li's and he did become one.

Response provides a partial explanation of the theme or message of this folktale. Response includes limited details from the folktale.

NECAP 2011 RELEASED ITEMS
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SCORE POINT 1

12

I think that the message is to be kind and respectful to everyone.

Response is vague or minimal.

SCORE POINT 0

12

He made the folkale song form them and song it for them and be came famouse off of the songs

Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

Grade 8 Reading Released Item Information – 2011

Released Item Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Content Strand ¹	WV	WV	LI	LI	LI	WV	LI	WV	LA	LA	LA	LA
GLE Code	7-2	7-3	7-4	7-4	7-4	7-2	7-4	7-2	7-5	7-6	7-5	7-5
Depth of Knowledge Code	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Item Type ²	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR
Answer Key	B	C	B	B	D	A		A	C	B	D	
Total Possible Points	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	4

¹Content Strand: WV = Word ID/Vocabulary, LI = Literary/Initial Understanding, LA = Literary/Analysis & Interpretation,
 II = Informational/Initial Understanding, IA = Informational/Analysis & Interpretation

²Item Type: MC = Multiple Choice, CR = Constructed Response