



**NEW ENGLAND  
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items  
Support Materials  
2012**

**Grade 8  
Reading**

NECAP 2012 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 prefix *mon-* in the words monarch and monorail means

- A. one.
- B. less.
- C. hand.
- D. bad.

**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

The builder \_\_\_\_\_ the wall before he built the next story of the building.

2 Which word shows the builder made the wall stronger?

- A. reinforced
- B. promoted
- C. concealed
- D. decorated

## Watching Dad Literary Text

(The passage for these questions is located in Released Items 2012 – 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 Dad gets most of his inspiration for his paintings from
- A. views from his backyard.
  - B. photographs he has taken.
  - C. instructors at art school.
  - D. paintings he has seen.

**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

- 4 Julianna feels sad for her father because he
- A. makes a living as a mason.
  - B. paints with so little imagination.
  - C. paints in a yard with chickens.
  - D. failed to complete his college degree.

## Watching Dad Literary Text

(The passage for these questions is located in Released Items 2012 – Grade 8 Reading.)

**7.3.2 Shows breadth of vocabulary knowledge through demonstrating understanding of word meanings and relationships by selecting appropriate words or explaining the use of words in context, including content specific vocabulary, words with multiple meanings, or precise vocabulary**

- 5 In paragraph 4, the word picturesque means
- A. easily accessible.
  - B. naturally beautiful.
  - C. entirely shaded.
  - D. safely enclosed.

**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**

- 6 Julianna likes to watch her father paint because she wants to
- A. learn to paint.
  - B. listen to him talk.
  - C. get some advice.
  - D. tell him about Bryce.

## Watching Dad Literary Text

(The passage for these questions is located in Released Items 2012 – Grade 8 Reading.)

**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

- 7 Explain how the reader knows that painting is important to Dad. Use details from the passage to support your answer.

### Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of how the reader knows that painting is important to Dad. Response includes relevant details from the passage.
3	Response provides an explanation of how the reader knows that painting is important to Dad. Response includes some relevant details from the passage.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of how the reader knows that painting is important to Dad. Response includes limited details from the passage.
1	Response is vague or minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

### Training Notes:

Responses may include that Dad seems peaceful while painting, is always watchful for landscapes, that painting seems to be a spiritual experience for him, and that he makes analogies using painting. Details from the passage must support any explanation.

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SCORE POINT 4

7

In this passage it is obvious to the reader that painting is important to Dad. One way we can tell is that he carries a camera with him in his truck just so that he can take pictures of things to paint later. We can also tell that it's important because he proceeds to paint in his backyard, even though it isn't very picturesque. I think it is a way to spend time with Julianna, too. Since he is always telling her stories about when he was a kid, she learns a lot more about him. I also think it is important because it is sort of like his time to break free from the world. In the passage, Julianna described him painting, and she said, "It's almost like his body has been possessed by some graceful spiritual being." You can tell that painting is Dad's happy place, and that it is an important part of his life.

Response provides a thorough explanation of how the reader knows that painting is important to Dad.  
Response includes relevant details from the passage.

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SCORE POINT 3

7

Painting is important to Dad because it gives him time to be creative and think about life at the same time. He always has a camera in his truck so he can get a picture of landscapes he comes across. Also it's obvious that painting is very important to him since he has to paint in his not very pleasant backyard. Another reason is it gives him a chance to get to know his daughter better and find out what's happening in her life and his daughter gets to know him better too.

Response provides an explanation of how the reader knows that painting is important to Dad. Response includes some relevant details from the passage.

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SCORE POINT 2

7

Painting is important to her dad because in the story, it talks about her dad keeping a camera in his truck just to take pictures of stuff he can paint. She says "...it's almost like his body has been possessed by some graceful spiritual being." to describe how he feels when he paints. He even uses painting references to describe a perspective of real-life situations.

Response provides a partial explanation of how the reader knows that painting is important to Dad. Response includes limited details from the passage.

SCORE POINT 1

7

The reader knows that painting is important to him because he takes pictures of nature and other objects and paints them.

Response is vague or minimal.

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SCORE POINT 0

7

Because he makes money  
to feed him and his Daughter.

Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

## A Lesson in Igloo Building Informational Text

(The article for these questions is located in Released Items 2012 – Grade 8 Reading.)

**7.8.5** Analyze and interpret informational text, citing evidence as appropriate by making inferences about causes or effects

- 8 Based on the article, why is “one-finger snow” avoided when building an igloo?
- A. It creates an unstable base for the igloo.
  - B. It is not suitable to be cut into blocks.
  - C. It does not allow light to shine into the igloo.
  - D. It forms blocks that are too heavy to lift.

**7.8.1** Analyze and interpret informational text, citing evidence as appropriate by explaining connections about information *within* a text, *across* texts, or to related ideas

- 9 Which paragraph contains information illustrated in **Figure 2**?
- A. paragraph 5
  - B. paragraph 6
  - C. paragraph 8
  - D. paragraph 9

## A Lesson in Igloo Building Informational Text

(The article for these questions is located in Released Items 2012 – 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)

- 10 In paragraph 9, the word taunts means
- A. hints.
  - B. suggests.
  - C. mocks.
  - D. wonders.

**7.8.4** Analyze and interpret informational text, citing evidence as appropriate by distinguishing fact from opinion, and identifying possible bias/propaganda or conflicting information within or across texts

- 11 Which statement from the article contains an **opinion**?
- A. “The four of us begin by digging a trench, which enables us to work comfortably at waist level.”
  - B. “Otis selects a site for the structure and thoroughly stomps down the snow to create a stable base.”
  - C. “To access the igloo, we dig a tunnel at the front—just large enough for us to slither through on our bellies.”
  - D. “As we wriggle inside to admire our handiwork, we discover something remarkable.”

## A Lesson in Igloo Building Informational Text

(The article for these questions is located in Released Items 2012 – Grade 8 Reading.)

**7.7.3 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by organizing information to show understanding (e.g., representing main/central ideas or details within text through charting, mapping, paraphrasing, summarizing, or comparing/contrasting)**

- 12 Describe the challenges that must be overcome when making an igloo. Use information from the article to support your answer.

### Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough description of the challenges that must be overcome when making an igloo. Response includes relevant information from the article.
3	Response provides a description of the challenges that must be overcome when making an igloo. Response includes some relevant information from the article.
2	Response provides a partial description of the challenges that must be overcome when making an igloo. Response includes limited information from the article.
1	Response is vague or minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

### Training Notes:

Response may include but is not limited to:

- finding suitable snow to build the igloo
- cutting the blocks appropriately
- creating a stable base for building
- trimming from the inside so the walls lean inward and the top of the igloo comes together
- digging a small tunnel large enough to get equipment inside

12

Building an igloo is hard work, and there are many challenges that must be faced in order to complete one. To start off, a trench must be dug; the trench allows the builders to have easier access to the hard snow. Once the trench is dug, the builders have to scrape away the first layer of snow to get to the better second layer. When that is found, they have to make sure the snow is hard enough, "If you can poke your finger through, it's too soft". The builders have to cut out the blocks using small handsaws. The blocks are large and weigh at least ten kilograms each.

To build the igloo, the builders have to find a spot and stomp on it to pack down the snow. The blocks, when stacked, must be wedge-shaped to a degree in order for the igloo to be round, the blocks must be fitted together very tightly, and the gaps filled with snow when finished.

The igloo needs a door, so a small tunnel must be dug big enough for someone to slide in on their belly. A hole must be made in the top for ventilation. Overall, the difficult, long process takes four men around six hours, 175 blocks for the building, plus all the blocks that were broken in the making.

Response provides a thorough description of the challenges that must be overcome when making an igloo. Response includes relevant information from the article.

12

Making an Igloo isn't all its thought to be. There are many challenges while creating this snowy structure. A crucial part of making an igloo is finding the right snow, it takes experience to know which snow is perfect for the construction of the igloo. Second, you have to make a solid foundation for the igloo to stand, which means packing down a lot. Third, you have to cut more than 70 rectangles made from snow, and place them all together to create the dome. And lastly you have to dig an entrance hole big enough so you can scoot under it without it falling apart.

Response provides a description of the challenges that must be overcome when making an igloo. Response includes some relevant information from the article.

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SCORE POINT 2

12

The first challenge is finding the right snow and to find the right snow you poke your finger through it, if it goes through it's too soft. Then you find a good spot and step on the snow to harden it then you start building your igloo in a spiral formation. Lastly you dig a tunnel to get into your igloo & make a ventilation hole.

Response provides a partial description of the challenges that must be overcome when making an igloo. Response includes limited information from the article.

SCORE POINT 1

12

Some of the challenges you may face while making a igloo could be; Finding dense enough snow to cut blocks out of. Trying not to break the snow blocks while taking them out.

Response is vague or minimal.

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SCORE POINT 0

12

The snow/ice can be dangerous. You could get frost-bite, or it could collapse on you.

Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

## Grade 8 Reading Released Item Information – 2012

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

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

<sup>2</sup>Item Type: MC = Multiple Choice, CR = Constructed Response