

Critical Skills Assignment Rubric

Critical Reading: Informational Text

Total Possible Score: 10 points

Use the rubrics to evaluate the student's responses to each item.

(Score: ____ of 10 points)

My Trip to Africa

1. What does the word *expedition* mean in Paragraph 10?

Model Answer

trip; trek

Objective 52873: Explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, or proverbs appropriate for a fourth-grade level.

Score	0.5 point	0 points
Level	Exemplary	Unacceptable
Scoring notes	accurately explains the meaning of the word <i>expedition</i> as it is used in Paragraph 10	inaccurately explains the meaning of the word <i>expedition</i> as it is used in Paragraph 10

2. Read Paragraph 1. Then reread this sentence:

Karen Draper is fascinated by Africa and has been for a long time.

What is a synonym for *fascinated*?

Model Answer

delighted; excited

Objective 52875: Demonstrate understanding of the meaning of a fourth-grade level word by identifying a synonym of the word.

Score	0.5 point	0 points
Level	Exemplary	Unacceptable
Scoring notes	accurately identifies a synonym for the word <i>fascinated</i>	inaccurately identifies a synonym for the word <i>fascinated</i>

3. The main idea of the passage is that Karen Draper worked hard to be able to see wild animals in Africa.

Identify a sentence from the passage that best supports this main idea.

Model Answer

Karen's dream finally came true, but preparing for a trip to Africa was not easy.

Objective 52776: Explain how key details support the main idea of an informational text written at a fourth-grade reading level.

Score	1 point	0.5 point	0 points
Level	Exemplary	Emerging	Unacceptable
Scoring notes	identifies a sentence that fully supports the main idea	identifies a sentence that somewhat supports the main idea	does not answer the question

4. Reread Paragraphs 6 and 7. How does Karen show that she was well prepared to go on her trip? Give two examples of the preparations Karen made and explain why she made them.

Use information from the text to support your answer.

Model Answer

Karen made sure she was taking care of her health when she went on her trip. She made sure to visit a doctor who knew about traveling in other countries. And, she followed his advice about taking the right medicines and getting the right shots so she would not get sick.

Karen also did a lot of research to make sure she knew as much as possible about Africa. She studied about the money so she would be able to pay her way with the correct bills from the country. She also researched the clothing she would need so she wouldn't get too wet at Victoria Falls.

Objective 52773: Use details or examples from an informational text written at a fourth-grade reading level to explain what the text specifically says.

Score	2 points	1.5 points	1 point	0.5 point	0 points
Level	Exemplary	Proficient	Emerging	Novice	Unacceptable
Scoring notes	fully addresses each element of the question	mostly addresses each element of the question	partially addresses each element of the question	addresses few elements of the question	does not answer the question

Animal Enrichments

5. Read Paragraph 6. Then reread this sentence:

Hippos are some of the most aggressive animals on earth.

What is an antonym for *aggressive*?

Model Answer

peaceful

Objective 52874: Demonstrate understanding of the meaning of a fourth-grade level word by identifying an antonym of the word.

Score	0.5 point	0 points
Level	Exemplary	Unacceptable
Scoring notes	accurately identifies an antonym for the word <i>aggressive</i>	inaccurately identifies an antonym for the word <i>aggressive</i>

6. What does the adage *don't judge a book by its cover* mean in Paragraph 6?

Model Answer

Don't think you understand something just because of the way it looks.

Objective 52873: Explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, or proverbs appropriate for a fourth-grade level.

Score	0.5 point	0 points
Level	Exemplary	Unacceptable
Scoring notes	accurately explains the meaning of the adage <i>don't judge a book by its cover</i> as it is used in Paragraph 6	inaccurately explains the meaning of the adage <i>don't judge a book by its cover</i> as it is used in Paragraph 6

7. Reread Paragraph 4. Which sentence from the passage shows that sea otters are intelligent? Explain why you chose this sentence.

Support your answer with at least one detail from the passage.

Model Answer

I think the sentence, "They crack the shells of their prey against rocks they hold on their chests," shows that sea otters are intelligent. The sea otters show that they have figured out a way to open the shells of their food. They use the rock they hold on their chests as a tool to crack the shells of the animals they eat. Knowing to use a tool to make a job easier and knowing how to use the tool to get what you want shows intelligence.

Objective 52773: Use details or examples from an informational text written at a fourth-grade reading level to explain what the text specifically says.

Score	2 points	1.5 points	1 point	0.5 point	0 points
Level	Exemplary	Proficient	Emerging	Novice	Unacceptable
Scoring notes	identifies a sentence from the passage that shows that sea otters are intelligent; explains why the student chose this sentence	identifies a sentence from the passage that shows that sea otters are intelligent; partially explains why the student chose this sentence	identifies a sentence from the passage that shows that sea otters are intelligent; does not explain why the student chose this sentence	identifies a sentence from the passage that is about sea otters but does not directly show that they are intelligent; explains why the student chose this sentence	does not answer the question

8. Reread Paragraph 18 from "My Trip to Africa" and Paragraph 6 from "Animal Enrichments." What do hippos in the wild have in common with hippos in a zoo?

Use information from both texts to support your answer.

Model Answer

Hippos in the wild and hippos in the zoo both like to go under the water. In "My Trip to Africa," when Karen was canoeing on the river, she was surprised when a hippo raised its head above water as she hadn't seen it when the hippo was completely under water. In "Animal Enrichments," the hippos bob for lettuce in their water. Bobbing means you have to put your head under the water.

Objective 52797: Integrate information from two informational texts on the same topic written at a fourth-grade reading level to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

Score	3 points	2.25 points	1.5 points	0.5 point	0 points
Level	Exemplary	Proficient	Emerging	Novice	Unacceptable
Scoring notes	accurately describes what hippos in the wild have in common with hippos in a zoo; uses information from both texts to support the answer	accurately describes what hippos in the wild have in common with hippos in a zoo; uses information from one text to support the answer	partially describes what hippos in the wild have in common with hippos in a zoo; uses information from one or both texts to support the answer	partially describes what hippos in the wild have in common with hippos in a zoo; does not use information from the texts to support the answer	does not answer the question