

Critical Skills Assignment Rubric

Critical Reading: Narrative Text

Total Possible Score: 10 points

Use the rubrics to evaluate the responses to each item.

(Score: ____ of 10 points)

Mysterious Myrtle

1. What does the phrase *pouring out his problems* mean in Paragraph 6?

Model Answer

talking it over

Objective 52867: Use context clues, including definitions, examples, restatements, to determine the meaning of a word or phrase, at a fourth-grade level.

Score	0.5 point	0 points
Level	Exemplary	Unacceptable
Scoring notes	accurately explains the meaning of the phrase <i>pouring out his problems</i> as it is used in Paragraph 6	inaccurately explains the meaning of the phrase <i>pouring out his problems</i> as it is used in Paragraph 6

2. What does the word *fretting* mean in Paragraph 2?

Model Answer

worrying

Objective 52867: Use context clues, including definitions, examples, restatements, to determine the meaning of a word or phrase, at a fourth-grade level.

Score	0.5 point	0 points
Level	Exemplary	Unacceptable
Scoring notes	accurately explains the meaning of the word <i>fretting</i> as it is used in Paragraph 2	inaccurately explains the meaning of the word <i>fretting</i> as it is used in Paragraph 2

3. Write a summary of the story.

Model Answer

A cow behaves strangely until a boy figures out that the cow is trying to get help for her calf.

Objective 52757: Summarize a story, play, or poem written at a fourth-grade reading level.

Score	1 point	0.75 point	0.5 point	0.25 point	0 points
Level	Exemplary	Proficient	Emerging	Novice	Unacceptable
Scoring notes	writes a summary that includes only the most important elements of the story	writes a summary that includes a few minor details from the story	writes a summary that includes a number of minor details from the story	writes a summary that focuses on minor details from the story and includes few or none of the important elements	does not write a summary

4. What is the theme of “Mysterious Myrtle”?

Support your answer with an example from the story.

Model Answer

The theme of the story is that it is important to be persistent when trying to solve a problem.

In the story, both Mike and Myrtle are persistent.

Mike is persistent in trying to figure out what is bothering Myrtle. He asks questions and eliminates possibilities until he figures out that Mischief is missing.

Myrtle is persistent because she keeps running around in a strange way, ignores her food, and bawls until she gets Mike’s attention so that he could get help for her calf.

Objective 52756: Determine the theme of a story, play, or poem based on details in a literary text written at a fourth-grade reading level.

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

Thud Bump

5. What is the meaning of the idiom *sweating bullets* in Paragraph 9?

Model Answer

sweating heavily due to fear or nervousness

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 idiom <i>sweating bullets</i> as it is used in Paragraph 9	inaccurately explains the meaning of the idiom <i>sweating bullets</i> as it is used in Paragraph 9

6. What does the word *edged* mean in Paragraph 9?

Model Answer

walked sideways

Objective 52867: Use context clues, including definitions, examples, restatements, to determine the meaning of a word or phrase, at a fourth-grade level.

Score	0.5 point	0 points
Level	Exemplary	Unacceptable
Scoring notes	accurately explains the meaning of the word <i>edged</i> as it is used in Paragraph 9	inaccurately explains the meaning of the word <i>edged</i> as it is used in Paragraph 9

7. Where does “Thud Bump” take place? How do you know? Why is the setting important?

Support your answer with details from the story.

Model Answer

The story takes place in an apartment in San Francisco.

Even though it does not say the story takes place in an apartment building, it can be inferred since Mrs. O’Leary lives below Jeremy and his mother and can hit the ceiling with a broom to get their attention. Also, Jeremy goes downstairs to check on Mrs. O’Leary.

It’s important that it takes place in an apartment building because Jeremy can hear sounds from other people’s homes, which would be harder in a place where houses are spread out. The story needs to take place where people would share laundry facilities, as residents of an apartment building might, and where the sound of shoes thumping in a dryer might be a distant sound they could hear.

Objective 52759: Use details from the text to describe the setting of a story or play written at a fourth-grade reading level.

Score	3 points	2.25 points	1.5 points	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

8. How are the points of view from which “Mysterious Myrtle” and “Thud Bump” are told different?

Support your answer with information from the stories.

Model Answer

“Mysterious Myrtle” is told by a narrator who is not a character in the story. The author uses words such as *he* and *she*, which means the story is told in third person.

Jeremy tells the story of “Thud Bump.” He is the main character and uses words such as *I* and *me*, which means the story is told in first person.

Objective 52767: Compare or contrast the point of view from which two different stories written at a fourth-grade reading level are narrated.

Score	2 points	1.5 points	1 point	0.5 point	0 points
Level	Exemplary	Proficient	Emerging	Novice	Unacceptable
Scoring notes	fully explains how the points of view are different	mostly explains how the points of view are different	partially explains how the points of view are different	minimally explains how the points of view are different; answer may contain inaccuracies	does not answer the question