

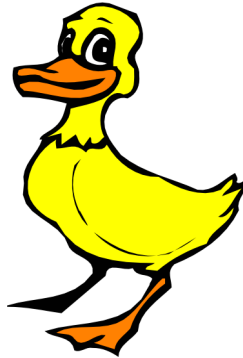
NJMC Language Arts Samples

You are going to hear two stories that have surprising endings. You should think about how the stories are alike as you listen.

THE UGLY DUCKLING

A little duckling was very sad because he thought he was the ugliest amongst all his brothers and sisters. They would not play with him and teased the poor ugly duckling. One day, he saw his reflection in the water and cried, "Nobody likes me. I am so ugly." He decided to leave home and went far away into the woods.

Deep in the forest, he saw a cottage in which there lived an old woman, her hen, and her cat. The duckling stayed with them for some time but he was unhappy there and soon left. When winter set in the poor duckling almost froze to death. A peasant took him home to his wife and children. The poor duckling was terrified of the children and escaped. The ugly duckling spent the winter in a marshy pond.



Finally, spring arrived. One day, the duckling saw a beautiful swan swimming in the pond and fell in love with her. But then he remembered how everyone made fun of him and he bent his head down in shame. When he saw his own reflection in the water he was astonished. He was not an ugly duckling anymore, but a handsome young swan! Now, he knew why he had looked so different from his brothers and sisters. "They were ducklings but I was a baby swan! he said to himself."

He married the beautiful swan and lived happily ever after.



Now listen to the second story. Think about ways the stories are similar and how they are different.

THE FROG PRINCE

Once upon a time, there lived a beautiful princess who had a golden ball. One day, while playing in the garden, the ball fell into a pond. She was very upset and did not know what to do. While she sat there crying helplessly, a frog hopped out of the pond and asked, "Why are you crying, little princess?" She told him about her golden ball. The ugly frog said, "I can help you get your ball but what will you give me in return?" "I will give you anything you want!" promised the princess. The frog immediately dived into the water and fetched the ball for her. The princess was very happy. The frog reminded her, "Remember that you promised me anything. Well, I want to be your friend, eat from your plate, and sleep in your palace!" The princess hated the idea but she agreed and ran back to the palace.



The next morning, the princess found the frog waiting for her. He said, "I have come to live in your palace." Hearing this, the princess ran to her father, crying. When the kind king heard about the promise, he told her, "A promise is a promise and you must keep your word. You must let the frog stay here." The princess was very angry but she had no choice and let the frog stay. He ate from her plate during dinner and asked the princess to take him to her bed at night. The princess picked him up angrily and threw him to the floor.

In a flash, the frog turned into a handsome prince! He told the princess that he had actually been under the spell of a wicked witch. The princess fell in love with the prince. They were married and lived happily ever after.

1. In the two stories you have just heard there is a problem or challenge that each character faces.

Choose one story to think about. Circle your choice. In two sentences, describe the problem or challenge and write how the character resolves or fixes the problem or challenge.

The Ugly Duckling The Frog Prince

2. These two stories are alike in some ways, but also different. Using the diagram, fill in *two* ways the stories are alike on the left and *two* ways they are different on the right.

Ugly Duckling and Frog Prince are ALIKE	Ugly Duckling and Frog Prince are DIFFERENT

3. Think about the moral or lesson in each of these stories. Select one of the morals or lessons that could be true in both of these stories from the list below:

- Animals cannot talk so we should not listen to them. Instead we should follow our hearts.
- We should not judge beauty and goodness based on how someone looks or talks.
- We should love all things no matter how beautiful or ugly they are.
- Animals teach us valuable lessons so we should write books and stories about them.

Using details from the stories, explain why that is the moral or lesson.

4. Think about the following question and write your opinion about it.

Should we learn valuable lessons about life through stories about animals?

In your opinion writing, be sure to include:

- An answer to the question
- Specific details from the stories to support your opinion
- Specific reasons from your own experience
- Linking words to connect your ideas
- At least one closing sentence

Passage 1 is from a short story titled "The Homecoming."

Passage 1

"Just ask," Lincoln's father said. He smelled of toothpaste and aftershave. "The kids won't mind you asking them to explain things. Just try not to be so utterly negative." He was fixing up the old-fashioned navy blue school tie that Lincoln was now compelled to wear.

5 Another endless day at school in South Africa lay ahead of Lincoln. Never in the history of mankind had the days and the hours been so long and hot. "From day three on," his dad had said last week, "you will be okay. Remember that survival camp you attended at the Shenandoah National Park? You thought you'd never make it. From day three on, however, you were like a cat in a fishery. Mark my words, Lincoln: you are at the turning point."

10 You bet. His fifth day at Afrikaans Senior Primary loomed ahead and here he was, feeling awful as ever. It was blue Monday, and he was like the *fish* in that fishery.

"I hear them laughing behind my back all the time, Dad," said Lincoln. "Yesterday on the playground one guy wanted to know why you got it into your head to return to Africa after living in the States for fifteen years. Then lots of others closed in on me. They breathed on me and pushed me and one of them whispered something about you being a black man from Africa and Mom—"

15 "—being an African American." Lincoln's school tie done, his father reached for his coffee. He stirred it as if sugar took longer to dissolve in Africa than in America. "That's okay with me. They'll get over it. You'll be okay, too."

Flippit, Lincoln thought. I'm not negative, Dad. Africa is just such an odd planet.

20 He had to laugh at himself. *Flippit* seemed to be one of the most frequently used words on South African school grounds. He was picking up new words without even realizing it.

He took his satchel and opened the creaky front door of the brick house his parents had rented. On the far side of the veranda lay the overgrown garden with its unpruned peach, quince, and kumquat trees. He could hear the voices, the whistles, the laughter, and the calls of children on their way to school.

25 "You haven't eaten much of your breakfast," his mother said behind him. "And I didn't hear any good-byes, either."

Lincoln sighed. "I was just looking Mom." He smiled a wobbly smile. "As you always say, 'Look before you leap, Lincoln.'"

30 She reached out and ruffled his hair. Her eyes were kind but worried. "You'll be okay, Lincoln. That boy who invited you to spend this Friday afternoon at his place sounds like a great kid. What's his name again?"

"Manfred April," said Lincoln. "See you, Mom... Bye, Dad... ." He didn't mention that Manfred had suggested making it the whole weekend.

"Your sandwiches," said his mother, handing him his lunch box.

35 Babying him again. But this Monday morning was blue enough. "Thanks, Mom." He walked down the garden path, opened the front gate, and braced himself. Okay, the mountains surrounding the town of Oudtshoorn were impressive. He knew it would be exciting to visit the Cango Caves and some of the ostrich farms in the district. But it was ghastly to feel like an alien.

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Passage 2 is the poem "I'm Nobody! Who Are You?" written by Emily Dickinson in 1891.

Passage 2

I'm nobody! Who are you?
Are you nobody, too?
Then there's a pair of us—don't tell!
They'd banish us, you know.

- 5 How dreary to be somebody!
How public, like a frog
To tell your name the livelong day
To an admiring bog!

5. Read the following excerpt from Passage 1 and then answer both parts of the question below.

But this Monday morning was blue enough.

Part A

What does Lincoln mean when he says the “morning was blue enough”?

- A. He feels bad about hiding information from his mother.
- B. He feels bad that his mother keeps worrying about him.
- C. He doesn't think his mother will be able to cheer him up.
- D. He doesn't want to make the day worse by arguing with his mother.

Part B

Which sentence from the passage best supports your answer?

- A. “Her eyes were kind but worried.” (line 28)
- B. “He didn't mention that Manfred had suggested making it the whole weekend.” (lines 31–32)
- C. “Babying him again.” (line 34)
- D. “He walked down the garden path, opened the front gate, and braced himself.” (lines 34–35)

6. Read the following excerpt from Passage 1 and then answer both parts of the question below.

He took his satchel and opened the creaky front door of the brick house his parents had rented. On the far side of the veranda lay the overgrown garden with its unpruned peach, quince, and kumquat trees. He could hear the voices, the whistles, the laughter, and the calls of children on their way to school.

Part A

What is the main purpose of this paragraph?

- A. To advance the plot
- B. To establish the theme
- C. To describe the setting
- D. To develop the main character

Part B

Which phrase from the excerpt is *least* useful to this purpose?

- A. “He took his satchel”
- B. “the brick house his parents had rented”
- C. “unpruned peach, quince, and kumquat trees”
- D. “children on their way to school”

7. Answer both parts of the question below.

Part A

How has Lincoln changed by the end of Passage 1?

- A. He admits that there are some good things about South Africa.
- B. He decides that he is happy his family moved to South Africa.
- C. He starts to talk like the other kids at his new school.
- D. He is hopeful about making a new friend at school.

Part B

Which sentence from the passage best supports your answer?

- A. "He was picking up new words without even realizing it." (line 20)
- B. "He smiled a wobbly smile." (line 26)
- C. "'That boy who invited you to spend this Friday afternoon at his place sounds like a great kid.'" (lines 28–29)
- D. "Okay, the mountains surrounding the town of Oudtshoorn were impressive." (lines 35–36)

8. Answer both parts of the question below.

Part A

Both Passage 1 and Passage 2 are about

- A. disliking the scrutiny of others
- B. making friends in a new country
- C. feeling misunderstood by one's parents
- D. coping with being popular

Part B

Select one sentence from Passage 1 and one line from Passage 2 that together support your answer.

- "Just try not to be so utterly negative." (line 2)
- "He was picking up new words without even realizing it." (line 20)
- "But it was ghastly to feel like an alien." (line 37)
- "I'm nobody! Who are you?" (line 38)
- "Then there's a pair of us—don't tell!" (line 40)
- "To tell your name the livelong day" (line 44)

9. Which of the following is a primary difference between the way Lincoln feels and the way that the narrator of the poem feels about their lives?

In two or three sentences, write your answer in the space below.

The passage below is a scene from the play Pygmalion, published in 1912 by George Bernard Shaw. At the beginning of the play, professor of speech Henry Higgins meets a bedraggled girl named Eliza, who tries to sell him flowers. At the time, Higgins remarks to his friend Colonel Pickering that, given enough time, he would be able to teach this flower girl to speak like a lady. In this scene, Eliza has come to Higgins home for the first time. Mrs. Pearce, the housekeeper, has just escorted Eliza into the living room to meet with Higgins and Colonel Pickering.

PICKERING [*gently*] But what is it you want?

THE FLOWER GIRL. I want to be a lady in a flower shop stead of sellin at the corner of Tottenham Court Road. But they wont take me unless I can talk more genteel. He said he could teach me. Well, here I am ready to pay him—not asking any favor—and he treats me zif I was dirt.

5 **MRS. PEARCE.** How can you be such a foolish ignorant girl as to think you could afford to pay Mr. Higgins?

THE FLOWER GIRL. Why shouldnt I? I know what lessons cost as well as you do; and Im ready to pay.

HIGGINS. How much?

10 **THE FLOWER GIRL** [*coming back to him, triumphant*] Now youre talking! I thought youd come off it when you saw a chance of getting back a bit of what you chucked at me last night. [*Confidentially*] Youd had a drop in, hadnt you?

HIGGINS [*peremptorily*] Sit down.

THE FLOWER GIRL. Oh, if youre going to make a compliment of it—

HIGGINS [*thundering at her*] Sit down.

15 **MRS. PEARCE** [*severely*] Sit down, girl. Do as youre told.

THE FLOWER GIRL. Ah-ah-ah-ow-ow-oo! [*She stands, half rebellious, half bewildered*].

PICKERING [*very courteous*] Wont you sit down? [*He places the stray chair near the hearthrug between himself and Higgins.*]

LIZA [*coyly*] Dont mind if I do. [*She sits down. Pickering returns to the hearthrug.*]

20 **HIGGINS.** Whats your name?

THE FLOWER GIRL. Liza Doolittle.

HIGGINS [*declaiming gravely*]

Eliza, Elizabeth, Betsy and Bess,

They went to the woods to get a bird's nes':

25 **PICKERING.** They found a nest with four egg in it:

HIGGINS. They took one apiece, and left three in it.

They laugh heartily at their own fun.

LIZA. Oh, dont be silly.

MRS. PEARCE [*placing herself behind Elizas chair*] You mustnt speak to the gentleman like that.

30 **LIZA.** Well, why wont he speak sensible to me?

HIGGINS. Come back to business. How much do you propose to pay me for the lessons?

LIZA. Oh, I know whats right. A lady friend of mine gets French lessons for eighteenpence an hour from a real French gentleman. Well, you wouldnt have the face to ask me the same for teaching me my own language as you would for French; so I wont give more than a shilling. Take it or leave it.

35 **HIGGINS** [*walking up and down the room, rattling his keys and his cash in his pockets*] You know, Pickering, if you consider a shilling, not as a simple shilling, but as a percentage of this girls income, it works out as fully equivalent to sixty or seventy guineas from a millionaire.

PICKERING. How so?

HIGGINS. Figure it out. A millionaire has about £150 a day. She earns about half-a-crown.

40 **LIZA** [*haughtily*] Who told you I only

HIGGINS [*continuing*] She offers me two-fifths of her days income for a lesson. Two-fifths of a millionaire's income for a day would be somewhere about £60. Its handsome. By George, its enormous! it's the biggest offer I ever had.

45 **LIZA** [*rising, terrified*] Sixty pounds! What are you talking about? I never offered you sixty pounds. Where would I get—

HIGGINS. Hold your tongue.

LIZA [*weeping*] But I aint got sixty pounds. Oh

MRS. PEARCE. Dont cry, you silly girl. Sit down. Nobody is going to touch your money.

HIGGINS. Somebody is going to touch you, with a broomstick, if you dont stop snivelling. Sit down.

50 **LIZA** [*obeying slowly*] Ah-ah-ah-ow-oo-o! One would think you was my father.

HIGGINS. If I decide to teach you, Ill be worse than two fathers to you. Here [*he offers her his silk handkerchief*]

LIZA. Whats this for?

55 **HIGGINS.** To wipe your eyes. To wipe any part of your face that feels moist. Remember: thats your handkerchief; and thats your sleeve. Dont mistake the one for the other if you wish to become a lady in a shop.

Liza, utterly bewildered, stares helplessly at him.

MRS. PEARCE. It's no use talking to her like that, Mr. Higgins: she doesnt understand you. Besides, youre quite wrong: she doesnt do it that way at all [*she takes the handkerchief*].

60 **LIZA** [*snatching it*] Here! You give me that handkerchief. He gev it to me, not to you.

PICKERING [*laughing*] He did. I think it must be regarded as her property, Mrs. Pearce.

MRS. PEARCE [*resigning herself*] Serve you right, Mr. Higgins.

65 **PICKERING.** Higgins: I'm interested. What about the ambassadors' garden party? I'll say youre the greatest teacher alive if you make that good. I'll bet you all the expenses of the experiment you cant do it. And I'll pay for the lessons.

LIZA. Oh, you are real good. Thank you, Captain.

HIGGINS [*tempted, looking at her*] It's almost irresistible. She's so deliciously low—so horribly dirty—

LIZA [*protesting extremely*] Ah-ah-ah-ah-ow-ow-oo-oo!!! I aint dirty: I washed my face and hands afore I come, I did.

70 **PICKERING.** Youre certainly not going to turn her head with flattery, Higgins.

MRS. PEARCE [*uneasy*] Oh, dont say that, sir: theres more ways than one of turning a girl's head; and nobody can do it better than Mr. Higgins, though he may not always mean it. I do hope, sir, you wont encourage him to do anything foolish.

75 **HIGGINS** [*becoming excited as the idea grows on him*] What is life but a series of inspired follies? The difficulty is to find them to do. Never lose a chance: it doesnt come every day. I shall make a duchess of this draggle-tailed guttersnipe.

10. Read the following excerpt and then answer both parts of the question below.

THE FLOWER GIRL. I want to be a lady in a flower shop stead of sellin at the corner of Tottenham Court Road. But they wont take me unless I can talk more genteel. He said he could teach me. Well, here I am ready to pay him—not asking any favor—and he treats me zif I was dirt.

Part A

What effect does Shaw achieve in the excerpt above?

- A. He elicits sympathy for Liza by demonstrating the extent of her mistreatment.
- B. He makes gentle fun of Liza by presenting her as prone to exaggeration.
- C. He emphasizes Lizas ambitious nature by showing her imagining impossible goals.
- D. He underscores Lizas lack of education by having her speak improperly.

Part B

Circle one portion of the excerpt above that supports your answer.

11. Answer both parts of the question below.

Part A

Why does Higgins agree to teach Liza?

- A. He ultimately feels like a father to her.
- B. He needs the money that she has promised to pay him.
- C. He sees teaching her as an interesting opportunity.
- D. He wants to mock Pickering's old-fashioned ideals.

Part B

Which quotation from the passage best supports your answer?

- A. **HIGGINS** [*continuing*] She offers me two-fifths of her days income for a lesson. Two-fifths of a millionaires income for a day would be somewhere about £60. Its handsome. By George, its enormous! its the biggest offer I ever had.
- B. **HIGGINS.** If I decide to teach you, Ill be worse than two fathers to you. Here [*he offers her his silk handkerchief*]!
- C. **HIGGINS.** To wipe your eyes. To wipe any part of your face that feels moist. Remember: thats your handkerchief; and thats your sleeve. Dont mistake the one for the other if you wish to become a lady in a shop.
- D. **HIGGINS** [*becoming excited as the idea grows on him*] What is life but a series of inspired follies? The difficulty is to find them to do. Never lose a chance: it doesnt come every day. I shall make a duchess of this draggled-tailed guttersnipe.

12. Answer both parts of the question below.

Part A

Which statement best expresses a central idea developed in the passage?

- A. People from different classes may struggle to comprehend one another.
- B. Inequalities in wealth and status generally lead to resentment and anger.
- C. People are capable of caring deeply for one another despite social differences.
- D. The pursuit of wealth leads people to lose touch with their humanity.

Part B

Which quotation from the passage most advances this idea?

- A. **HIGGINS** [*peremptorily*] Sit down.
THE FLOWER GIRL. Oh, if youre going to make a compliment of it—
HIGGINS [*thundering at her*] Sit down.
MRS. PEARCE [*severely*] Sit down, girl. Do as youre told.
- B. **HIGGINS.** What's your name?
THE FLOWER GIRL. Liza Doolittle.
HIGGINS [*declaiming gravely*]
Eliza, Elizabeth, Betsy and Bess,
They went to the woods to get a birds nes':
PICKERING. They found a nest with four egg in it:
HIGGINS. They took one apiece, and left three in it.
- C. **HIGGINS.** If I decide to teach you, I'll be worse than two fathers to you. Here [*he offers her his silk handkerchief*]!
LIZA. What's this for?
HIGGINS. To wipe your eyes. To wipe any part of your face that feels moist. Remember: thats your handkerchief; and that's your sleeve. Don't mistake the one for the other if you wish to become a lady in a shop.
Liza, utterly bewildered, stares helplessly at him.
MRS. PEARCE. It's no use talking to her like that, Mr. Higgins: she doesn't understand you. Besides, youre quite wrong: she doesn't do it that way at all [*she takes the handkerchief*].
- D. **PICKERING.** You're certainly not going to turn her head with flattery, Higgins.
MRS. PEARCE [*uneasy*] Oh, don't say that, sir: theres more ways than one of turning a girls head; and nobody can do it better than Mr. Higgins, though he may not always mean it. I do hope, sir, you wont encourage him to do anything foolish.
HIGGINS [*becoming excited as the idea grows on him*] What is life but a series of inspired follies? The difficulty is to find them to do. Never lose a chance: it doesnt come every day. I shall make a duchess of this draggle-tailed guttersnipe.