Using the sample Reading tests

The materials have been designed so that they can be used as individual units or as a mini-test paper incorporating a number of reading units.

Teachers in all subject areas should take note of the type of reading skill signalled in these tests and incorporate explicit teaching and assessment of reading skills in their own subject area lessons.

These sample Reading test units could be used to develop persistence and stamina and to show strategies such as:

- Question Answer Relationships (QARs), including a stage in which students write their own questions based on the stimulus texts
- text location strategies such as “key word in the margin”
- inferential questions, both those that are text-based and those that are context-based
- responding to evaluation questions.

Answers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The old cattle dog</th>
<th>1 D; 2 B; 3 C; 4 D; 5*; 6 D; 7 B; 8 D; 9 B; 10*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annie's story</td>
<td>11 C; 12 B; 13 C; 14 D; 15 B; 16 B; 17 C; 18*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardian angel</td>
<td>19 C; 20 A; 21 C; 22 A; 23 C; 24 D; 25 C; 26 C; 27*; 28 C; 29 A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Model responses for write-in (short response) questions

Item 5 The old cattle dog

Examples of responses:

- You should take care of those who have taken care of you.
- Loyal service deserves reward. Dad should look after Brek because he has worked well with him for many years.

Item 10 The old cattle dog

Examples of responses:

- The son understands how his father thinks. I know this because the son gives background information such as telling us about Dad and Brek both getting old. This background information helps the reader understand the relationship between the father and Brek.
- The son is caring and respectful. He respects his father. I know this because he does what his father asks without arguing. This helps his father because the father is old and can’t walk up the hill. The son helps Brek when he can’t hear without getting mad at him.

Item 18 Annie’s story

Examples of responses:

Annie’s story is about a thrilling event, the barrel ride. It was a tragedy because Annie survived going over Niagara Falls but no-one believed her, so she did not make the money she needed for her retirement.

References

Beck, IL, McKeown MG & Kucan, L 2006, Improving comprehension with questioning the author: A fresh and expanded view of a powerful approach, Scholastic, New York.
Harvey, S & Goudvis, A 2000, Strategies that work: Teaching comprehension to enhance understanding, Stenhouse, Portland.
Alvermann, DE & Phelps, SF 1998, Content reading and literacy, 2nd ed, Allyn and Bacon, Boston.
Resources

Resources on the QSA website that may be useful include:

- Poster: In the book or in your head — www.qsa.qld.edu.au/1443.html
- Teacher’s notes: Locating information — www.qsa.qld.edu.au/1443.html

Acknowledgments