

# **Example Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) Items**

Compiled from the Grade Level NeSA ELA Samplers and  
Check for Learning (C4L)

**Updated January 2017**

### Grade 3 Text-Dependent Analysis Prompts

Indicator	Prompt	Location
3.1.6.a	In the poem “We’re the Best Trees,” the poet’s purpose is to persuade the reader that coniferous trees are the best. Explain how the poet’s word choice helps persuade the reader. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the poem to support your answer.	2016 C4L
3.1.6.a	The author’s purpose for writing “Camping in the Wild” is to entertain. Explain how the details in the story entertain the reader. Write a well-organized response using details from the story to support your answer.	2016 C4L
3.1.6.b	In “Cory’s Big Idea,” Cory has many positive character traits. Explain how the events of the story show that Cory is generous and helpful. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.	2016 C4L
3.1.6.d	A theme of “Luke’s Paper Crane” is the importance of family. Explain how key details in the story support this theme. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.	NeSA-ELA Sampler
3.1.6.e	One of the main ideas of “Philo and the Television” is that “thinking about how things work can lead to brand new ideas.” Explain how the author supports this main idea throughout the passage. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.	2016 C4L
3.1.6.e	In “Elephant Talk,” the author tells how elephants share information with each other. Explain how elephants use most of their senses to communicate. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.	2016 C4L
3.1.6.h	“The Mighty Bison” explains how human actions have impacted bison. Explain how humans have affected the bison in the past and present. Write a well-organized response using evidence from the passage to support your answer.	2016 C4L
3.1.6.i	Both “Safe Slumber” and “Where Do Animals Sleep” tell about ways that different animals sleep. Explain why animals sleep in different ways. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.	NeSA-ELA Sampler
3.1.6.j	The author of “Visiting a Dome of Stars” uses description to help the reader understand what it is like to visit a planetarium. Explain how the author uses detail to describe a planetarium. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.	2016 C4L

## Grade 4 Text-Dependent Analysis Prompts

Indicator	Prompt	Location
4.1.6.a	The author of “Living Off the Earth” states that “The knowledge and creativity of the early Native Americans show it is possible to live and depend solely on what nature offers.” Explain how the author supports this claim throughout the passage. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.	NeSA-ELA Sampler
4.1.6.a	The author of “Female Olympic Pioneer” states that the Olympic games of 1900 “were not advertised very well.” Explain how the author supports this idea throughout the passage. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.	2016 C4L
4.1.6.a	The poet’s purpose for writing “Talent Show” is to entertain. Explain how the poet’s word choice helps to entertain the reader. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the poem to support your answer.	2016 C4L
4.1.6.b	In “A Rare Stamp Collection,” Grandma Helena and Trevor react differently to the loss of the stamp. Explain why Grandma Helena and Trevor have different reactions. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.	2016 C4L
4.1.6.d	A theme of “The Treasure Hunt” is working together toward a common goal. Explain how key details in the story support this theme. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.	2016 C4L
4.1.6.d	A theme of “One Lucky Fish” is the importance of Greg’s relationship with his fish, Fin. Explain how key details in the story support this theme. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.	2016 C4L
4.1.6.e	A main idea of “The World’s Largest Time Capsule” is that Harold Davisson’s time capsule was beneficial to his family and his community. Explain how key details in the passage support this main idea. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.	2016 C4L
4.1.6.h	The poet’s purpose for writing “Hidden Kingdom” is to encourage the reader to observe and appreciate nature. Explain how the poet uses sights and sounds to accomplish this purpose. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the poem to support your answer.	NeSA-ELA Sampler
4.1.6.j	The author of “Small Libraries with Big Dreams” compares and contrasts Little Free Libraries with public libraries. Explain how this organizational pattern helps the reader better understand Little Free Libraries. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.	2016 C4L

## Grade 5 Text-Dependent Analysis Prompts

Indicator	Prompt	Location
5.1.6.a	In "Howard Cosell--Sports Broadcasting Legend," the author states that Howard Cosell's "style and personality changed sports broadcasting forever." Analyze how the author supports this idea throughout the passage. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.	2016 C4L
5.1.6.b	In "The Great Cover-up," Gabriella is a determined person. Analyze how she shows her determination throughout the story. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.	2016 C4L
5.1.6.b	In "Stylist for a Day," Sabrina wants to be a fashion stylist but visits her uncle who is a food stylist. Analyze how Sabrina's attitude changes throughout the story. Write a well-organized response using evidence from the story to support your answer.	2016 C4L
5.1.6.c	Imagery is language that helps the reader imagine pictures in their mind. Explain how the poet's word choice creates imagery in "The Appetite of a Ship." Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the poem to support your answer.	2016 C4L
5.1.6.d	"Walking on the Moon" and "Moon Landing" have similar themes. Analyze how both the story and poem address the idea that space travel is fascinating. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.	NeSA-ELA Sampler
5.1.6.d	A theme of "Reggie to the Rescue" is that past experience can help to solve problems in new situations. Analyze how key details in the story support this theme. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.	2016 C4L
5.1.6.e	Read the definition below.  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>theories:</b> possible explanations of how something was created</p> "Who Invented the Ice-Cream Cone?" is about the creation of the ice cream cone. Analyze how the author presents different theories about how the ice cream cone was created. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.	2016 C4L
5.1.6.f	The passage "Seeing the Invisible" discusses the development of the microscope. Explain how the headings in the passage help the reader understand the information in the passage. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.	NeSA-ELA Sampler
5.1.6.h	"Margaret Knight: Paper Bag Machine Inventor" tells about a female inventor in the 1800s. Explain how Margaret Knight's actions helped lead the way for women today. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.	NeSA-ELA Released Passage

## Grade 6 Text-Dependent Analysis Prompts

Indicator	Prompt	Location
6.1.6.a	<p>Read the definition below.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>phenomenon:</b> an unusual or significant fact or event</p> <p>In the last sentence of “Highway of Water,” the author claims the Panama Canal is a phenomenon. Analyze how the author supports this claim throughout the passage. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.</p>	NeSA-ELA Sampler
6.1.6.b	<p>In the story “Stormy Weather,” Arthur’s feelings about helping his neighbor change throughout the story. Analyze how the author shows this change through Arthur’s thoughts, words, and actions. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.</p>	2016 C4L
6.1.6.b	<p>In the story “Monarch Migration Celebration,” Nana is an important character. Analyze how Nana’s character impacts the plot. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.</p>	NeSA-ELA Released Passage
6.1.6.c	<p>Mood is the feeling or emotion that a reader experiences from a poem or story. Explain how the poet’s word choice helps create mood throughout the poem “Campfire.” Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the poem to support your answer.</p>	NeSA-ELA Sampler
6.1.6.c	<p>Mood is a feeling or emotion that a reader experiences from a story. Explain how the mood in “The Best Syrup Ever” changes from the beginning of the story to the end. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.</p>	2016 C4L
6.1.6.e	<p>A main idea of “Parade Balloons” is that building and handling parade balloons involves a lot of hard work. Analyze how the author supports this main idea throughout the passage. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.</p>	2016 C4L
6.1.6.f	<p>The author of “Omaha’s Legendary Baseball Pitcher” provides a table titled “Bob Gibson’s Awards.” Explain how this table helps the reader better understand the information in passage. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.</p>	2016 C4L
6.1.6.i	<p>“Scream Machines: The History and Science of Roller Coasters” describes the science behind how roller coasters work. Explain how this information is illustrated in the poem “Roller Coaster Ride.” Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH the passage and the poem to support your answer.</p>	2016 C4L
6.1.6.j	<p>The author uses chronological order to organize the information in “Chalk Mine Is Nebraska Treasure.” Explain how this organizational pattern helps the reader better understand the geological and historic value of Happy Jack Chalk Mine. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.</p>	2016 C4L

## Grade 7 Text-Dependent Analysis Prompts

Indicator	Prompt	Location
7.1.6.a	The author’s perspective is how the author feels about the subject. Analyze how the author’s perspective influences word choice in “Gutzon Borglum’s Monumental Talent.” Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.	2016 C4L
7.1.6.a	In “Labels for Life,” the author states, “Learning how to read a nutrition label is not only a great lesson in the key elements of nutrition, but it’s also a great way to learn about making better choices.” Analyze how the author supports this statement throughout the passage. Write a well-organized response using evidence from the passage to support your answer.	NeSA-ELA Released Passage
7.1.6.b	In “Snowshoe Snapshots,” the narrator receives snowshoes as a gift. Analyze how the narrator’s perspective on the snowshoes changes throughout the story. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.	2016 C4L
7.1.6.c	Personification is a literary device which gives human characteristics to non-human things. Analyze how the poet uses personification in “My Life as a Computer.” Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the poem to support your answer.	2016 C4L
7.1.6.g	“Ice Harvest” is an example of historical fiction. Analyze the characteristics of the story that help the reader understand it is historical fiction. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.	2016 C4L
7.1.6.h	“Adventurous Storyteller” provides biographical information about Jack London, the author of <i>The Call of the Wild</i> . Explain how London’s life influenced his writing. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.	NeSA-ELA Sampler
7.1.6.h	The passage “From Train Station to Museum” describes the transformation of Omaha’s Union Station into the Durham Museum. Analyze how developments in transportation affected the building’s purpose. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.	2016 C4L
7.1.6.i	The passage “The World’s Tallest Trees—The Redwoods” provides information about redwood trees. Write a narrative describing a visit to a redwood forest. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.	NeSA-ELA Sampler
7.1.6.j	The author uses a compare and contrast pattern to organize the information in “Carhenge.” Analyze how this organizational pattern helps the reader better understand the origin and design of Carhenge. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.	2016 C4L

## Grade 8 Text-Dependent Analysis Prompts

Indicator	Prompt	Location
8.1.6.a	<p>Read the definition below.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>mysterious:</b> difficult to identify, explain, or understand</p> <p>In “Finding a Lost City,” the author describes the lost city as mysterious. Analyze how the author uses word choice to support this idea throughout the passage. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.</p>	2016 C4L
8.1.6.b	<p>In the story “Oversleeping,” the author blends reality and fantasy. Analyze how this helps the reader identify with the main character. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.</p>	NeSA-ELA Sampler
8.1.6.b	<p>A dynamic character goes through an internal change during a story. Analyze how the author of “Saturday Chess Match” demonstrates that Amanda is a dynamic character. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.</p>	2016 C4L
8.1.6.b	<p>The setting of a piece of literature includes time period, location, and weather. Analyze how the setting of “Winter” affects Marla’s sense of isolation. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.</p>	2016 C4L
8.1.6.d	<p>Theme is the central idea of a literary text. Analyze the development of a common theme in “The Atoms of Sound.” Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the poem to support your answer.</p>	NeSA-ELA Released Passage
8.1.6.d	<p>One theme of “Mustang” is the beauty of freedom. Analyze how the poet uses detailed description of the mustang to support this theme. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the poem to support your answer.</p>	2016 C4L
8.1.6.e	<p>Read the definition below.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>idol:</b> a person that is greatly admired, loved, or respected</p> <p>In May 1967, <i>Time</i> magazine named Johnny Carson a “midnight idol.” Analyze how the author supports this idea throughout “Johnny Carson, The King of Late-Night Television.” Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.</p>	2016 C4L
8.1.6.h	<p>The passages “There’s Still Gold in Those Hills” and “Letter from a Gold Miner” are both about the history of gold mining. Explain how the passages help the reader understand the history and process of gold mining in the United States. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.</p>	NeSA-ELA Sampler
8.1.6.h	<p>“Aldo Leopold: Wilderness Conservationist” describes Aldo Leopold as “one of the most influential conservationists of the twentieth century.” Analyze how Leopold created a lasting impact on wilderness conservation in the United States. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.</p>	2016 C4L

## Grade 11 Text-Dependent Analysis Prompts

Indicator	Prompt	Location
12.1.6.a	Author’s perspective is the author’s opinion on the subject. Analyze how the author’s perspective influences the content of “Harvesting the Rain.” Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.	2016 C4L
12.1.6.b	A theme of “A Place of My Own” is the journey from youth to adulthood. Analyze how the characterization of the narrator demonstrates this theme. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.	2016 C4L
12.1.6.b	Tone is the poet’s attitude toward the subject matter. Analyze how the poet’s use of literary devices (such as simile, imagery, and personification) helps to convey the tone of the poem, “Spanish in Action.” Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the poem to support your answer.	2016 C4L
12.1.6.b	An internal conflict is the struggle that takes place in a character’s mind while an external conflict is a struggle between a character and some outside force. Analyze how “The Eclipse” effectively depicts both internal and external conflicts. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.	NeSA-ELA Released Passage
12.1.6.c	Irony is a contrast between what is expected to happen and what actually happens. Analyze the author’s use of irony in “The Trouble with Pliers.” Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.	2016 C4L
12.1.6.d	The author of “The Speed of Sound” states that “barriers have always inspired people to dream bigger, push higher, and perform faster.” Analyze how the author supports this claim throughout the passage. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.	2016 C4L
12.1.6.g	“A Pioneer Diary” and “Recollections of a Pioneer” both describe the experiences of pioneers in the 1800s. Analyze how the hardships of this historical era contribute to each narrator’s personal growth. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.	NeSA-ELA Sampler
12.1.6.g	“The Nebraska Unicameral Legislative System” compares a unicameral system to a bicameral system. Analyze whether the citizens of Nebraska would be best served by continuing a unicameral legislative system or adopting a bicameral legislative system. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.	NeSA-ELA Sampler
12.1.6.i	In “Spring Forward, Fall Back,” the author discusses the history of why Daylight Savings Time was implemented. Analyze whether or not Daylight Savings Time is still necessary today. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.	2016 C4L
12.1.6.j	The author of “Fred Astaire: 1899-1987” uses cause and effect to organize information within paragraphs. Analyze how this organizational pattern enhances the reader’s understanding of Fred Astaire’s life and legacy. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.	2016 C4L