



NeSA Text Dependent Analysis (TDA)

2015 Sampler Passage

Grade 5

Passage: Walking on the Moon/Moon Landing

Scoring Guide

Prompt: “Walking on the Moon” and “Moon Landing” have similar themes. Analyze how both the story and the poem address the idea that space travel is fascinating. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.

Sample A

Space travel is fascinating. This is clearly seen in the similar themes that are in both “Walking on the Moon” and “Moon Landing.” A young girl in school dreams she is on the moon and an astronaut has his dream of traveling to the moon actually come true.

In “Walking on the Moon” Margaret is watching a video about the solar system which is one of her favorite subjects. Then suddenly she is gone “...something strange happened. Somehow I left the classroom and watched the ground slip away. I was hovering in the air, way above the school, floating like an airship above the city.” Next she rockets into space and discovers she is wearing a spacesuit which she needs for her trip. On the moon she picks up moon rocks and bounces along “like a basketball” and just explores. From her description it was an amazing trip to the moon!

The astronaut begins his story on his way to the moon. “The journey has taken just under three days” but he said it actually took decades beginning “with a picture book about Saturn’s rings which led to years of fascination and study, of training, of dreaming and then, to this very day”. With those words it is clear his trip is will be a dream come true. When he gets there he explores and jumps around just like Margaret and even lands inside his own footprint!

So whether a dream or a dream come true, both the story and the poem have the similar theme of the fascination of space travel.

Sample A Annotation

Score: 3

This response demonstrates effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. The response addresses all parts of the task of analyzing how both the story and the poem address the idea that space travel is fascinating. The analysis is focused on the dreams of both characters, and the specific evidence used to support the analysis demonstrates understanding of the text. A clear introduction, body, and conclusion are evident. The response demonstrates control of the conventions of standard English, with a few errors that do not interfere with meaning.

Prompt: “Walking on the Moon” and “Moon Landing” have similar themes. Analyze how both the story and the poem address the idea that space travel is fascinating. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.

Sample B

“Walking on the Moon” and “Moon Landing” have similar themes. Both the story and the poem are about the idea that space travel is fascinating. Both passages show us people’s fascination with space and space travel but at two different stages of life. The first passage is about a fifth grader who can only dream about space travel. The other passage, a poem, is about astronauts who have lived those dreams.

The young girl can only dream about going to the moon. She is so carried away with her dreams during a video on space that she actually believes she may have traveled to the moon during her science class. Who knows maybe she did! At the end of the story she notices that her fingers have moondust on them.

The astronauts also started dreaming about space when they were young. It says that it started “with a picture book about Saturn’s rings, which led to years of fascination and study, of training, of dreaming, and then, to this day”. They are adults now and are ready to try walking on the moon.

When the girl gets to the moon she jumps up and down. She also explores but is careful so she can return home. When she finds a way to return home she doesn’t want to leave at first but knows she might worry her classmates if she stays too long.

The astronauts do the same things as the girl, they jump up and down and are surprised that after floating so high up they end up landing in the footprint they originally made when they started. They also look back on earth and it reminds them of their homes.

Both passages begin fascinated with space travel but when it comes to where they want to live they both know they will want to return home no matter how fascinated they are about space travel.

Sample B Annotation

Score: 4

This response demonstrates exemplary analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. The response addresses all parts of the task of analyzing how both the story and poem address the idea that space travel is fascinating, and it thoroughly analyzes the text by thoroughly addressing explicit and implicit ideas from the text. Evidence from the text has been skillfully integrated into the response, and the skillful use of well-chosen, relevant, and accurate examples thoroughly supports the analysis. An appropriate organizational pattern and mode suited to the purpose are evident. Precise word choice and content-specific vocabulary from the text are skillfully used to enhance the ideas. The writer has thoroughly demonstrated conventions of standard English, and errors do not interfere with meaning.

Prompt: "Walking on the Moon" and "Moon Landing" have similar themes. Analyze how both the story and the poem address the idea that space travel is fascinating. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.

Sample C

Both passages make space travel seem fascinating. The girl in the first passage liked what she saw in the video in science class so much that she dreamed about going to the moon. She was wearing a spacesuit that was bulky and she was flying past satellites and asteroids. She made it sound exciting by saying that pieces of space dust were zinging past her. She wondered if the craters were what made the illusion of the man in the moon. Moon Landing is like a story about a real astronaut. He takes his first step and begins to drift away but the invisible cord of gravity keeps him tethered and safe. That would feel cool. That makes me want to space travel too. This is how both passages make space travel seem fascinating.

Sample C Annotation

Score: 2

This response demonstrates partially effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. The response demonstrates a partial understanding of the task by attempting to analyze how both the story and poem address the idea that space travel is fascinating. Some relevant and accurate evidence from the text has been integrated to support the main idea; however, further analysis of the text and more specific evidence highlighting how space travel is fascinating would be required for a higher score. The writer occasionally uses precise word choice and content-specific vocabulary from the text. The response includes a partially effective introduction, body, and conclusion.

Prompt: "Walking on the Moon" and "Moon Landing" have similar themes. Analyze how both the story and the poem address the idea that space travel is fascinating. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.

Sample D

Well, in the story the kid thinks she has walked on the moon. Im not really sure if she did in real life because maybe it is all just a dream. An example is "I closed my eyes and thought about the thrill of flying and what I'd learned about the moon today." In the poem the guy lands on the moon in a spacecraft and jumps around. But both are excited to be there and fascinated by being on the moon. So, it is fascinating I know Id be fascinated to be on the moon.

Sample D Annotation

Score: 1

This response demonstrates minimal analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. The response minimally addresses the task and ineffectively analyzes how both the story and the poem address the idea that space travel is fascinating. Some explicit and implicit ideas, such as "both are excited to be there," are minimally analyzed. The response provides little evidence from the passage for support and demonstrates a minimal understanding of the text. The response consists mainly of a brief summary of the text that ineffectively demonstrates an appropriate organizational pattern and mode. Errors in conventions of standard English interfere with meaning.

Prompt: “Walking on the Moon” and “Moon Landing” have similar themes. Analyze how both the story and the poem address the idea that space travel is fascinating. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.

Sample E

The author of both articles, (“Walking on the Moon” and “Moon Landing”) points out what they think is fascinating and these are some I found. The author of “Walking on the Moon” shares these important facts, ‘there are eight planets orbiting around the sun all the time, the sun is a star and we have dwarf planets, asteroids, comets, and moons in our solar system’. Stating that ‘I was always interested in space ever since I was a little girl and now she’s learning facts’.

To start off the author of “Moon Landing” he shares how amazing the earth looks from space such as the ‘long strand of clouds’, ‘the ocean sparkle’, ‘the Alaskan island’ and ‘The Great Lakes like his home’. And the author shares that Saturn’s rings started his love of space. These are the fascinations I saw.

Sample E Annotation

Score: 2

This response demonstrates partially effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. The response addresses some parts of the task to demonstrate partial understanding of the texts. The text is partially analyzed by addressing explicit ideas from the texts. The response partially integrates evidence from the texts using quotes. Some relevant and accurate evidence is provided to partially support the claim that “the authors from both articles points out what they think is fascinating.” The response has a partially effective introduction, body, and conclusion. The response partially demonstrates an organizational pattern suited to the task. Quotes are clearly used and attribute information to the text. Precise word choice is occasionally utilized. Some conventions interfere with meaning.

Prompt: “Walking on the Moon” and “Moon Landing” have similar themes. Analyze how both the story and the poem address the idea that space travel is fascinating. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.

Sample F

Walking on the Moon: in this text, it talks about a girl named Margaret, she takes a ‘trip’ to the moon, it happens all of a sudden in her classroom, after she picks up a disk, she gets transported to space in a sudden, so it would be considered fantasy.

Both: Both texts sort of tie into the fascination of space travel because in “Walking on the Moon” it kind of explains how Margaret finds amazing stuff on the moon, she also investigates craters, & rocky dust, things that not everybody can see everyday, and these are things NOT everybody knows about, then again, in “Moon Landing” it says that the astronaut explores space Earth looks amazing, from their view. In the passages, they both describe their adventures in space. even though some of it was fake, { in a way}

“Moon Landing”: In this text, a astronaut takes a trip to the moon, the poem describes the asteroid belt, and the cord of gravity, it also says, that his journey seems like spanned decades, from the text; “ it began with a picture book, about Saturn’s rings” This genre is poetry.

Conclusion: These details describe why space travel is fascinating.

Sample F Annotation

Score: 2

This response demonstrates partially effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. The response addresses some parts of the task to demonstrate partial understanding of the texts. The response partially analyzes explicit and implicit ideas from the texts. Evidence from the text is partially integrated by using examples and quotes. Some relevant and accurate evidence from the texts partially supports the claim that the details in the story describe why space travel is fascinating; some evidence in the response is not relevant to the analysis. The response is partially focused and includes a partially effective introduction, body, and conclusion. The response demonstrates evidence of an organizational pattern (compare & contrast) suited to the task. Precise word choice and vocabulary from the texts are occasionally used. Some errors in conventions interfere with meaning.

Prompt: “Walking on the Moon” and “Moon Landing” have similar themes. Analyze how both the story and the poem address the idea that space travel is fascinating. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.

Sample G

In “Walking on the Moon” the main character takes an imaginary trip to the moon. She described the surface of the moon in great detail helping the reader to visualize it’s appearance. For example, she describes it as “rocky and solid. It seemed to be covered with a film of dark gray dust as if someone had crumbled bits of charcoal over it.”

In addition to being fascinated by the moon’s surface she was also fascinated by it’s gravity. She described it as “bouncing around like a basketball”. Later in the story she talked of the thrill of flying, what she had learned about the moon that day, and of not being sure she wanted to go home yet.

In the poem “Moon Landing” the author also paints word pictures to describe his experience in space travel. He wrote that the air was “thick with anticipation”. The author shares his description of clouds as looking like “wisps of cotton candy” as well as the the Alaskan islands “like pebbles along a beach”. When the author states that he “looks back at Earth, the planet just dangling there”, he makes it seem fascinating to be able to view your own planet from afar.

Both authors wrote about space travel in a positive way which leads this reader to conclude that the writings share a similar theme; space travel is fascinating. This is important because it makes readers like me want to experience space travel myself.

Sample G Annotation

Score: 3

This response demonstrates effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. The response addresses all parts of the task to demonstrate understanding of the texts. The response analyzes the texts by addressing both explicit and implicit ideas from the texts. Specific evidence from the texts is skillfully integrated through the use of details, examples, and quotes. Relevant and accurate evidence thoroughly supports the claim that the texts share the theme “space travel is fascinating.” The response is well-focused and includes a purposeful body, conclusion, and transitions, but lacks a clear introduction. The response skillfully uses paraphrasing and quotes to attribute information to the texts. Precise word choice and vocabulary from the text are utilized. The response thoroughly demonstrates conventions of standard English.

Prompt: “Walking on the Moon” and “Moon Landing” have similar themes. Analyze how both the story and the poem address the idea that space travel is fascinating. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.

Sample H

“Walking on the Moon” and “Moon Landing” have similar themes because both talk about how space travel is interesting. For example both of the talk about the moon and how it’s fascinating and exciting. They talk about rockets, spacesuits, and stars. In the poem “Moon Landing” it even talks about a picture book about Saturn’s rings.

In the story “Walking on the Moon” they talk about all the moons and the eight planets. They also talk about dwarf planets, asteroids and comets all before the third paragraph. The story talks about how the moons gravity works too. In the second paragraph it even says the main character is fascinated by space. It also tells you the sun is a star.

In the poem “Moon Landing” from lines five to fifteen it says that reading a book led to fascination, training, dreaming and studying. It talks about how pretty and amazing the earth looks from space. Also it talks about jumping and floating on the moon .I think these story’s made me more interested in space and learning about it.

Sample H Annotation

Score: 2

This response demonstrates partially effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. Some parts of the task are addressed and the response demonstrates partial understanding of the texts. The response partially analyzes text by addressing explicit ideas from the texts. Evidence is partially integrated through the use of examples from both texts. Some relevant and accurate information from the text partially support the claim that “Walking on the Moon’ and ‘Moon Landing’ have similar themes because both talk about how space travel is interesting.” The response is partially focused and includes a clear introduction/thesis and a partially effective body and conclusion. Partially effective use of paraphrases and quotes are evident. Precise word choice and content-specific vocabulary from the text are occasionally used. Errors in conventions seldom interfere with meaning.

Prompt: “Walking on the Moon” and “Moon Landing” have similar themes. Analyze how both the story and the poem address the idea that space travel is fascinating. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.

Sample I

The characters in both passages wanted to go to space because of something academic in school. As the author points out “It all started when Ms. Jackson, our fifth-grade science teacher, was showing a video about the solar system.” The poem on the other hand said this “It began with a picture book about Saturn’s rings, which led to years of fascination and study, of training, of dreaming, and then to this very day.”

Also, the authors share in both passages that the gravity on the moon was fascinating. In “Moon Landing” the author shares with us “The astronaut takes his first step and begins to drift away; but the invisible cord of gravity keeps him tethered and safe.” In addition both authors use some kind of simile or figure of speech to really make the story come alive. For example the author in “Walking on the Moon” said “Floating through the air like a helium-filled balloon, your travels will not stop until you reach the Moon.”

This makes me realize that traveling to and from the moon is a very fascinating thing, and is different for everyone.

Sample I Annotation

Score: 2

This response demonstrates partially effective analysis of text and use of evidence, and writing skills. Some parts of the task are addressed to demonstrate understanding of the texts. The text is partially analyzed by addressing some explicit and implicit ideas from the texts. Specific evidence from the response is integrated through the use of quotes. Relevant evidence from the text is provided to partially support the analysis. The response is partially focused. The response lacks an introduction/thesis, but includes a partially effective conclusion, a clear body and transitions. An appropriate organizational pattern, comparing and contrasting ideas from the texts, is demonstrated. Clear use of quotes to attribute information to the texts are present. Precise word choice and vocabulary from the texts are occasionally used. Errors in conventions do not interfere with meaning.

Prompt: “Walking on the Moon” and “Moon Landing” have similar themes. Analyze how both the story and the poem address the idea that space travel is fascinating. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.

Sample J

The “Walking on The Moon” and “Moon Landing” authors both state that the moon and space are fascinating. Both authors put lot’s of facts in their story’s. Even though one is in poetry form and the other isn’t they still seem to be saying the same ideas.

In “Walking on The Moon” text evidence shows how much the girl wanted to stay, “I wasn’t sure I wanted to go back just yet.” This shows how fascinated the girl is and maybe wants us to be. It also says “And moons, of course----146 official ones and maybe 27 more.” This only one of the many sentences that show her fascination.

In “Moon Landing” the astronaut shows his fascination by saying “It began with a book about saturn’s rings, which led to years of fascination and study.” The author seems to say that we should be that way also.

In conclusion both authors do a great job of telling us about the moon and space in ways that make you want to keep reading!

Sample J Annotation

Score: 2

This response demonstrates partially effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. Some parts of the text are addressed to demonstrate partial understanding of the texts. The response partially analyzes explicit and implicit ideas from the texts. Evidence from the text is partially integrated through the use of quotes and examples. Some relevant and accurate evidence is provided to partially support the claim that “(the) authors both state that the moon and space are fascinating.” The response is partially focused and includes a clear introduction/thesis and a partially effective conclusion and transitions. Precise word choice and vocabulary from the texts are occasionally used. Errors in conventions seldom interfere with meaning.