



**NeSA Text Dependent Analysis (TDA)**  
**2016 Released Passage**

**Grade 11**

**Passage: The Eclipse**

**Scoring Guide**

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, structured response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.

#### Writer's Checklist

In "The Eclipse," the protagonist, Josie, is recollecting on a "dark" time of her life. Literally, life was dark for two solid months, due to an eclipse that lasted much longer than a few minutes. However, that was not the only darkness that was going on at the time. Josie felt an internal darkness due to the absence of sunlight. Josie opens the reader's eyes in "The Eclipse," and allows the audience to feel and understand her internal conflict. However, with internal conflict usually accompanies external conflict, which is another struggle Josie is battling with. It is crucial to understand and designate the difference between the protagonist's external and internal conflicts. On the other hand, these conflicts are actually linked together in some sort of fashion.

"The Eclipse" captures the thoughts and allows the audience to feel the emotions of the protagonist, Josie. Josie is having a difficult time adjusting to the life of living in semidarkness all of the time. For example, when Josie's friend Travis asks her what she is thinking about, her reply is, "I don't know... everything." This statement clearly indicates that Josie has a lot on her mind and it is unsettling to her. Since the eclipse occurred, Josie also feels like she has not been appreciative enough of the little and simple things in life. Josie states, "I'd never cared much for salad or fresh veggies, but now that they were impossible to get, I craved them everyday." This simple additional statement verifies Josie's deep feelings of regret. Her regret is also accompanied with the feeling of being ungrateful. It is quite evident that Josie is struggling with inner conflict throughout the story, and seems inevitable to avoid due to her circumstances.

The external conflict that is occurring is the eclipse that has lasted for two months. In result, sunlight has been hiding and Josie, along with many others, are not adjusting well. First of all, businesses are closing, such as fast food restaurants, along with florist shops. Josie explains, "All fast food places had hastily scribbled signs on their doors: CLOSED DUE TO ECLIPSE." This message simply dispalyes that Josie is not alone in her struggle, and the eclipse is affecting everyone. Another external conflict that is a result of the eclipse is the rise in food items, specifically meat. In the story, it is stated that, "Meat was selling for \$55." This is an outrageous amount, and proves that families were struggling to eat. Not only was meat too expensive to purchase, "Without sunlight, all the crops had withered." The examples above are all supportive in the fact that the sunlight had much greater effects than just Josie's internal struggles.

In addition, it is evident that the audience understands how two things may be linked. Due to the loss of sunlight, an external conflict, led to an immediate internal conflict. Not only did Josie feel an internal struggle, her friend Travis did as well. Travis stated, "I miss going to the lake, lying there and feeling the sun on your skin..." This indicates Travis's longing for the feel of sunlight on his face, and how much the loss of the Sun really can impact a person. Another example of how an external conflict can lead to an internal conflict is when Josie discusses the purpose of the special lamps that were scattered around the school. Josie explains, "The lamp was supposed to mimic real sunlight, and the school installed several of these lamps a few weeks ago because they were worried students wouldn't adjust well to living in semidarkness all the time. The lamps are supposed to help our bodies produce vitamin D, but all these lamps do is make the hallway feel like a blackout parking lot in August." This description is powerful, and sets an immediate mood of sadness and darkness. It is clear to see that an external conflict is often accompanied with an internal conflict.

In conclusion, "The Eclipse" takes the reader's into the mind of Josie, a girl who is struggling with the circumstances she is given in life. First of all, the Sun hiding for two months takes its toll on society as a whole. Businesses are shutting down, food prices have inflated, and crops are dying and withering. Not only is there an external conflict present, there is also an internal conflict that is accompanied with the darkness. Josie is feeling regret for not being grateful of all the things she had before; the lake, the sunlight, the spring, and fresh vegetables are all very missed. However, in the last paragraph of the story, explains that the eclipse may have been a blessing in disguise. Josie states that once the sun finally appeared again, "I promised myself in that moment that I'd never take the Sun, or anything else, for granted again."

4763/6000

#### Score Point 4

**This response demonstrates exemplary analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills.** The response thoroughly addresses all parts of the task and demonstrates thorough understanding of the text through analyzing how internal conflicts (*Josie is having a difficult time adjusting to the life of living in semidarkness all of the time*) and external conflicts (*the eclipse that has lasted for two months*) are both effectively depicted in the text. The response skillfully demonstrates an organizational pattern that first addresses the internal conflicts of Josie, then the external conflicts of everyone, followed by skillfully combining an analysis of how both internal and external conflicts work together to create "*an immediate mood of sadness and darkness.*" A purposeful introduction, body, conclusion, and transitions help to generate a well-focused response. The response thoroughly analyzes explicit and implicit ideas from the text (*she has not been appreciative enough of the little and simple things in life... Josie's deep feelings of regret...accompanied with the feeling of being ungrateful...Josie is not alone in her struggle, and the eclipse is affecting everyone...Travis's longing for the feel of sunlight on his face, and how much the loss of the sun really can impact a person*), and skillfully integrates relevant and accurate evidence and quotes from the text to support the analysis. The response skillfully uses precise word choice and content-specific vocabulary from the text to enhance ideas. The response thoroughly demonstrates conventions of standard English, with few errors present.

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, structured response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.

#### Writer's Checklist

In the short story, "The Eclipse", there is an internal conflict depicted through the inner thoughts of the protagonist and external conflict that occurs due to an extended solar eclipse.

First of all, there are internal conflicts depicted through the inner thoughts of the protagonist and narrator of the story, Josie. Josie is a student who witnesses the extended solar eclipse with her earth science class and as a result she becomes mournful and reflective of what life was like before the sun disappears and questions what else she believed were solid and immutable may end up changing. She describes her experience with a forboding tone, saying "A shadow fell over everything, and a chill embraced me. I shivered." This can be classified as an internal conflict as Josie continues to describe her feelings towards the ordeal and how she struggles to remain positive in the face of this adverse situation. When it became apparent the solar eclipse was lasting longer than it should, Josie writes that her legs felt weak, and she sat down on the curb. Before she knew it, her face was in her hands and her mind was flooded with worry and questions. While there were people such as her friend Travis who attempted to comfort her, claiming "it's going to be okay," Josie still firmly believes that it really was not okay however Travis' presence did make things better by some margin. In this way, Josie's internal struggle is depicted as her struggle to maintain an optimistic attitude while being retrospective of what life was like before the sun became overshadowed by the moon.

Another conflict that is depicted is an external conflict between mankind and this extended solar eclipse. Josie's school attempts to compensate for the lack of the sun's visible presence by special lamps designed to mimic real sunlight because of concern that students would not adjust well to living in constant semidarkness and are also supposed to help the bodies of students produce vitamin D. However as Josie states, "all these lamps do is make the hallway feel like a blacktop parking lot in August." Another effect of the sun's disappearance is the adverse impact on the food supply that is being solved through the reliance on canned food for the time being since all the crops had withered without sunlight. And without crops, the price of livestock feed has drastically increased along with the selling price of meat. Moreover, fast food places are even being shut down due failure to actually sell any food and "had hastily scribbled signs on their doors" saying they are closed due to the eclipse. Josie also describes how there is a failure to actually describe the cause of the extended solar eclipse either. She writes,

"Scientists, government agencies, and the greatest minds alive, had focused all the power of the human scientific machine skyward, but they still hadn't been able to figure out how the Moon remained in front of the sun, how the usual cycles and rotations of everything had suddenly become tangled."

How this external struggle is depicted is effective because it shows how much such an event may impact the local environment of a young protagonist while giving a glimpse of how it is effecting society at large.

With how these internal and external struggles are depicted within "The Eclipse" one can conclude that they are effectively written because it gives the reader a view of how such an unusual event may impact the worldview of a young person and her environment as well as society in general.

3527/6000

#### Score Point 4

**This response demonstrates exemplary analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills.** The response thoroughly addresses all parts of the task and demonstrates a thorough understanding of the text when analyzing how internal conflicts (*through the inner thoughts of the protagonist... Josie*) and external conflicts (*between mankind and this extended solar eclipse*) are both effectively depicted in the text. The response thoroughly analyzes explicit ideas from the text regarding some of the external conflicts in the text (*the adverse impact on the food supply...reliance on canned food...the presence of special lamps designed to mimic real sunlight*), and skillfully integrates relevant and specific evidence from the text to support the analysis. The response also thoroughly analyzes implicit ideas from the text regarding Josie's internal conflicts (*Josie's internal struggle is depicted as her struggle to maintain an optimistic attitude while being retrospective of what life was like before the sun became overshadowed by the moon... she becomes mournful and reflective... she struggles to remain positive in an adverse situation*) and skillfully integrates quotes and details to support the analysis. The response is well-focused on the task and includes a purposeful introduction, body, and strong conclusion with the use of partially effective transitions. An appropriate organizational pattern is evident. The response skillfully uses precise word choice and content-specific vocabulary from the text to enhance ideas. The response thoroughly demonstrates conventions of standard English, with few errors present.

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, structured response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.

#### Writer's Checklist

"The Eclipse" presents a world without sunlight. In the story, the Sun is covered by the moon, which caused much confusion throughout the population. The protagonist, Josie, becomes mournful and reflective after the Eclipse. During the Eclipse, Josie becomes friends with Travis, who is supportive and lighthearted. Through these characters, "The Eclipse" effectively depicts internal and external conflicts throughout the story.

To begin with, "The Eclipse" contains external conflicts which affect the characters. With the moon covering the Sun, the lives of Josie and Travis change because the Sun can no longer provide sunlight for nature on Earth. In the story, food is stated to be affected by the absence of sunlight. Without sunlight, plants become scarce in supply. This also leads to a decrease in animals, which is why restaurants close down in the story. Another external conflict due to the Sun is shown when Travis states "I miss going to the lake." This problem of change in the environment causes characters to cease some of their daily activities due to darkness. Readers can infer that rather than just going to the lake, other activities are decreased. For example, it may be taking a walk, riding bikes, or playing sports. The Sun has a huge impact on external factors and changes many of them due to its absence. This causes many external conflicts for people in the story. Besides external conflicts, "The Eclipse" depicts internal conflicts through the main protagonist, Josie.

The reflection of her life before the Eclipse shows internal conflict through Josie. The story begins with Josie remembering back to the past. As she does, she begins to remember about the Sun and what it provides for the Earth. Josie then feels mournful for taking the Sun for granted. Josie has an internal conflict with herself because she realizes now that the Sun is gone, her life has changed dramatically. She begins to crave food which is not possible without sunlight. Her thoughts at this point seem to be regretful because she misses everything that was present before the Eclipse. However, at the end of the story the Sun reappears from behind the moon, to the astonishment of the characters. Josie then promises herself to not take anything for granted again, proving that she was battling with internal problems while the sun was gone. Her feelings of regret and sadness is present throughout in the text. Josie's tone and reflections help describe her internal struggles, which then proves that "The Eclipse" effectively utilizes internal conflicts as well within the story.

2600/6000

### Score Point 3

**This response demonstrates effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills.** The response addresses all parts of the task and demonstrates an understanding of the text. The responses demonstrates an appropriate organizational pattern that includes an introduction followed by analysis of external conflict and then internal conflict. Purposeful transitions link the ideas together, but a conclusion is absent. The response effectively analyzes how the external conflicts ("*the lives of Josie and Travis change because the sun can no longer provide sunlight for nature*") and the internal conflict ("*she realizes now that the sun has gone her life has changed dramatically... Josie then feels mournful for taking the sun for granted*") are depicted in the text. Specific evidence from the text has been integrated to support both the external conflict analysis (*without sunlight plants become scarce... decrease in animals... restaurants close down*), and the internal conflict analysis (*she begins to crave food which is not possible without sunlight... Josie promises not to take anything for granted again*). Precise language and content-specific vocabulary from the text are evident. Few errors in conventions of standard English seldom interfere with meaning.

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, structured response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.

#### Writer's Checklist

"The Eclipse" details both internal conflicts and external conflicts centered around the main character, Josie. In the aftermath of a total solar eclipse that persisted for months, Josie struggles with the external conflict of living without sunlight, and the internal conflict of realizing that she had taken the sun for granted for so long.

When discussing the external implications of a persistent solar eclipse, Josie lists a number of devastating consequences. The first implication to manifest itself within the story is simply the lack of sunlight. Josie mentions the lamps that had recently been installed in the school to mimic daylight and encourage vitamin D production, but "all [the] lamps do is make the hallway feel like a blacktop parking lot in August". She also describes the effect of an eclipsed sun on trade. "Without sunlight, all the crops had withered", causing the prices of feed for livestock and, as a result, the price of meat to rise dramatically.

The text also includes the somewhat more nuanced description of the internal conflict that Josie experiences, during the incessant eclipse. Josie's internal conflict is introduced to the reader in the first sentence: "We all took the Sun for granted, until it was gone". Josie struggles to come to terms with this great loss, a loss that she never knew was even possible. She ponders her previous lack of enthusiasm for fresh fruits and vegetables, commenting that "now that they were impossible to get, [she] craved them everyday". She also reflects on the day of the eclipse, remembering that as the class realized that the moon was not moving out of the way of the sun, her legs became weak and she sat on the curb with her face in her hands, "[her] mind... flooded with worry and questions".

"The Eclipse" details complex external and internal struggles by describing the conditions that Josie experiences. Her experience of the changes to society in the aftermath of the eclipse give the reader insight into the implications of such a long term environmental change, while access to her emotions and thoughts provide an understanding of the internal struggle she faces as she struggles to forgive herself for taking the Sun for granted.

2221/6000

#### Score Point 3

**This response demonstrates effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills.** The response addresses all parts of the task and demonstrates an understanding of the text. The response effectively analyzes how the external conflict "*of living without sunlight*" and the internal conflict "*of realizing that she had taken the sun for granted for so long*" are depicted in the text. Specific evidence from the text has been provided to support the analysis (*The lack of sunlight... the lamps that had recently been installed... the effect of an eclipsed sun on trade... she ponders her previous lack of enthusiasm for fresh fruits and vegetables*). The focused response includes a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. Precise language and content-specific vocabulary from the text enhance ideas. Few errors in conventions of standard English seldom interfere with meaning.

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, structured response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.

#### Writer's Checklist

"It made me wonder what other things I thought were solid and immutable." This quote is a representation of an internal conflict that takes place in the story. "I guess something good came out of the eclipse. We became friends right?" This is also an example of conflict but this is describing the external side of conflict in the story. It all starts off with her and Zach not really being friends, then the sun going out and then finally them showing an appreciation for the sun which is an example of an internal conflict.

To start things of like the quote i stated in the introduction paragraph when she says "I guess something good came out of the eclipse. We became friends right", that really made me think about how they treated and thought of each other previous before the eclipse. Like when Zach said "could you be a little less specific" that was his kind of way of joking around and being lighthearted towards her but she never really exactly opened up and became friends until the eclipse.

Next the sun going out was an example of them not really appreciating what they had exactly. As they say "you never appreciate what you have until it's gone", that applies to this because at first she never really liked salads but during the eclipse that's all she was craving and that's all she wanted.

Most importantly her and other people never really enjoyed the sun until it was taken away from them. Just like what I said in the previous paragraph the quote "you never truly appreciate the things you have until they're taken from you". So at the end of the book when all she wanted was a salad and that's all she was craving she grew a new found love for it. Also during the middle of the entire book when meat is being sold for \$55 dollars and fast food buisnesses were going away she missed the taste of hamburgers and the fact no one was really eating them. Or even at the point when people were honking their horns and clapping to the sun coming back into their lives.

To conclude this story i thinkg the fact that this story has so many conflicts is a crazy thing. There's so many conflicts wether they be internal or external. When the conflict all starts off it ends up with her and Zach not really being friends, then the sun going out and then finally them showing an appreciation for the sun which is an example of an internal conflict.

236316000

#### Score Point 2

**This response demonstrates partially effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills.** The response demonstrates a partial understanding of the text, as there appears to be some misunderstanding regarding what defines an internal or external conflict. The response provides some quotes from the text to use as examples of internal and external struggles (*It made me wonder what other things I thought were solid and immutable... I guess something good came out of the eclipse. We became friends right?*), but does not effectively analyze how the quotes depict either type of conflict. Partial analysis of the idea that "you never truly appreciate the things you have until they're taken from you" has been demonstrated with some relevant examples (*"all she wanted was a salad and that's all she was craving she grew a new found love for it... fast food businesses were going away... she missed the taste of hamburger... finally them showing an appreciation for the sun*). The response includes a partially effective introduction, body, conclusion, and transitions. The responses is partially focused and the frequent referring back to previously presented quotes disrupts the sequence and clarity of ideas. The response occasionally uses precise word choice and vocabulary from the text. Some errors in conventions of standard English interfere with meaning.

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, structured response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.

#### Writer's Checklist

The internal conflict happened with Josie. She struggled with being happy because the dark gloomy weather was hard enough to be happy in. She never really looked at things in a positive way when it came to the eclipse or anything that was happening around her. The external conflict happened with mostly everyone. The Eclipse made it hard for businesses to stay open because they had to raise the price of their things and people just wouldn't buy it. Most places had to put a sign up in their window saying "closed because of eclipse". Because of the eclipse, the price of meat was \$55 per pound causing the prices of what should be a cheap hamburger, an expensive one. A flower shop had to hang the same sign because obviously no flowers are going to grow while there is an eclipse. The produce section at the grocery store never had anything to offer. It just sat there, dark and empty. Getting veggies and fruits were impossible to get for everyone. The weather was always cold. The people there had to wear heavy coats when they shouldn't have even needed one. People had to eat a lot of canned food while the eclipse was happening. The eclipse made Josie realize that you should never take the little things, like the sun for granted because you never know, one day the sun could be gone forever.

1302/6000

#### Score Point 2

**This response demonstrates partially effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills.** The response addresses some parts of the task of analyzing how "The Eclipse" effectively depicts both internal and external conflicts. While an analysis of Josie's internal conflict has been attempted (*she struggled with being happy because the dark and gloomy weather was hard enough to be happy in... she never really looked at things in a positive way*), specific evidence from the text to support this analysis is somewhat lacking. A list of some relevant examples and details paraphrased from the text that highlight the external conflicts have been partially integrated into the response (*hard for businesses to stay open... meat was \$55 per pound... a flower shop had to hang the same sign... the weather was always cold... people had to eat a lot of canned food*). The response demonstrates a partial understanding of the text, a partial analysis of explicit and implicit ideas from the text, and a partially effective use of evidence to support the analysis. The response lacks an introduction, thesis, and conclusion, and transitions are ineffective or missing. The response uses some precise word choice and content specific vocabulary from the text. Errors in conventions seldom interfere with meaning.

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, structured response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.

#### Writer's Checklist

"The Eclipse" is a amazing story because some times people dont realise how inportant the sun is. The sun makes food for everyone in the world and if we didnt have the sun prices would go up so fast like the autor said "meat was selling at \$55 a pound". Too much sun is bad also because it can cause skin cancer and other cancers but if we dont have any sun our body wont get the nutrience that it needs.

If the sun would go away today I dont know what would happen. People living in Alaska dont get much sun and it leads to depression. The makes people happy if they know it or not.

People take things they have for granted all the time now since we are grown up having everything we need in the U.S. One thing people take for granted is there plumming before plumming everyone had to go outside. Another example would be a power, power from the power plant isnt just sitting there doing nothing, people have to make it with hard work. Be thankfull that the world is like it today.

987/6000

#### Score Point 1

**This response demonstrates minimal analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills.** The response minimally addresses part of the task ("*is a amazing story because some times people dont realise how inportant the sun is*"), and ineffectively analyses explicit or implicit ideas from the text. The response demonstrates a minimal understanding of the text. Little evidence to support an analysis of the internal and external conflicts in the text ("*meat was selling at \$55 a pound*") is integrated in the response. Background knowledge is presented in lieu of evidence. The response is minimally focused and lacks an introduction, body and conclusion. Errors in conventions interfere with meaning.

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, structured response using specific evidence from the story to support your answer.

#### Writer's Checklist

The external conflict is depicted by the covering of the sun and the withering of crops.  
The internal conflict is depicted by the inward missing of the light and the foreboding of losing the sun

193/6000

#### Score Point 1

**This response demonstrates minimal analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills.** The response minimally addresses the task and demonstrates a minimal understanding of the text. The response ineffectively analyzes the explicit and implicit ideas from the text. The response provides a few examples of external and internal conflicts from the text, but does not integrate them into an analysis of how the story effectively depicts the conflicts. The response lacks an introduction and conclusion and provides a minimal body.