



# **NeSA Text Dependent Analysis (TDA)**

**2016 Released Passage**

**Grade 8**

**Passage: Atoms of Sound**

## **Scoring Guide**

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

#### Writer's Checklist

In everyday life, we hear hundreds of little noises that we barely pay attention to. But honestly, these small sounds are what boost your mood or changes your attitude. Imagine going a day without hearing the laughter of a child or the comfort of the wind howling outside of your window. Shockingly, it might actually be pretty easy to picture because of how often we don't stop for a second and take in the little differences around us. In the poem "The Atoms of Sound", it makes you realize that spending an evening waiting and listening to everything around you can change your perspective on things.

The speaker in this poem first talks about when they get home from school. For example, "The television turned up; chitchat on the telephone; my baby brother wailing, red fists clenched furiously." All these things clearly show and tell you that life is loud and busy. Life sometimes annoys and frustrates you, but take a moment and breathe. Suddenly, the mood starts to change in the poem where it says, "As the sun sets, a blanket of darkness settles;" This is when the speaker of the story takes a moment. "The dogs are sleeping", "The television hushed hours ago and the once-noisy devices charge" is what it talks about to have you really get the feel that the atmosphere has started to calm down a bit.

As the poem shifts from busy and active to peaceful and quiet, it starts to really describe the near silence of the night. Like the creaking from the wall and the squeaking from the nails. It's even so quiet that the speaker "overhears the footsteps of my mother in the hallway, bare feet on the padded carpet." I feel that the sounds in the poem are meant to remind you of all the little, comforting sounds that remind you of a good memory. The noises that you remember are probably stuck in your head for a reason. Like I said earlier, there is probably a friendly memory tied to it and it makes you smile just thinking about it. The sound of the "creasing of the knees of her denim jeans" from their mother might have brought the speaker back to an earlier time in their life when they had heard that. And now, when they hear that specific sound, it might just remind the speaker of their mother. See, these faint sounds can change how you think about things.

As the poem comes to an end, it finishes with telling you how important these things are. "All those little sounds are always there, doing there jobs." That sentence I feel is what really sums up the whole passage. Because it's true. The faint noises that we hear during our day are and will always be there, waiting around the corner. There's no way to stop them and I'm not even sure if I would want to. Like I've been saying this whole time, these sounds can really change you. "You realize these little noises are fundamental, that they are the minuscule atoms of sound." The little sounds I also believe help you appreciate many things. Laughter, whispers, footsteps. All of these sounds have the potential to change your view point. And if you take a moment, just like the speaker of this poem has done, and take in all the wonderful noises around you, I'm almost positive that you'll appreciate one more small thing. And trust me, it'll make all the difference.

3280/6000

#### Score Point 4

**This response demonstrates exemplary analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills.** The response addresses all parts of the task by stating a theme (*listening to everything around you can change your perspective on things*). A thorough analysis of the text ideas supports the thesis that listening to the little sounds can *"have the potential to change your view point."* This analysis demonstrates a thorough understanding of the explicit and implicit ideas in the text (*noises that you remember are probably stuck in your head for a reason...probably a friendly memory tied to it...All these things clearly show and tell you that life is loud and busy...life sometimes annoys and frustrates you, but take a moment and breathe...you'll appreciate one more small thing...it'll make all the difference*). Specific evidence from the text is used and well-selected quotes are skillfully integrated into the analysis. Relevant and accurate evidence from the text thoroughly supports the ideas presented. Paraphrases and quotes are skillfully incorporated to attribute information from the text. The response is well-focused on the idea that listening to small sounds can create a change of perspective. A purposeful introduction and body include the use of purposeful transitions to indicate movement through the ideas (*The speaker...first talks about...Suddenly, the mood starts to change...As the poem shifts from busy and active to peaceful and quiet*). Overall, the response skillfully demonstrates an appropriate organizational pattern and mode, even though the conclusion employs a somewhat persuasive tone. The skillful use of precise word choice enhances the ideas (*Life sometimes annoys and frustrates you...the atmosphere has started to calm down...faint sounds*). The response thoroughly demonstrates conventions of standard English.

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

#### Writer's Checklist

"The Atoms of Sound" revolves around the theme of how the most simple, everyday things can provide comfort. Common noises can make you feel safe and secure, as if life itself is just a simple puzzle. Ever-present and reliable, almost like an old friend, these melodic sounds soothe us. We grow used to these noises, but we also grow tired of them. We fail to see the beauty hidden behind their simplicity.

These simple, rhythmic sounds are constant. A substantial reminder of the mark that people make on the world. Every day, every minute, these persistent sounds ensue. These noises are important, but are taken for granted by many. The spotlight is taken by louder noise, and the everyday sounds slip away, barely heard over the commotion of neighboring people.

"The Atoms of Sound" starts out describing the easily noticed noises. The deafening barking of ecstatic dogs, a baby's miserable wail; you never have to strain your ears to hear these sounds. They take up your attention, you focus in on them. What people don't realize, however, is that underneath that blanket of noise lies a symphony of sounds that no one bothers to listen to. No one notices these gentle noises that go unheard. The steady heartbeat of a loved one, the comforting sound of a pencil on paper; these comforting sounds are overthrown during the day, taken over by the chaos of ordinary life.

During the day, the rambunctious sounds take their place, while overnight quiet noise reigns. They each have their own beauty about them. Quiet sounds are made up of wistful expressions and tiptoes on wooden floors. Loud noises are made up of laughter and booming music. "The Atoms of Sound" focuses on the overlooked sounds that people never listen to, the comfort in everyday noises, and the building blocks that smaller noises truly are.

1818/6000

#### 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 through analysis of a theme (*the most simple, everyday things can provide comfort*). Thorough understanding of the text is demonstrated through analysis of the implicit and explicit ideas from the text (*common noises can make you feel safe and secure...ever-present and reliable, almost like an old friend these melodic sounds soothe us... these simple, rhythmic sounds are constant...quiet sounds are made up of wistful expressions and tiptoes on wooden floors... the rambunctious sounds take their place, while overnight quite noise reigns...these comforting sounds are overthrown during the day, taken over by the chaos of ordinary life*). Evidence from the text is skillfully integrated through synthesis of details and examples from the text. Relevant and accurate evidence from the text supports analysis and paraphrases attribute information to the text. The response is well-focused and includes a purposeful introduction, body, and conclusion. Precise word choice is skillfully utilized to enhance meaning (*these persistent sounds ensue ... deafening barking of ecstatic dogs...symphony of sounds*).

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

#### Writer's Checklist

The theme of the story "The Atoms of Sound" is constantly developed throughout the text. I believe what it is trying to show is that all the small things in life have an important role to a larger cause.

In the beginning of the story, the author describes all the small noises that create a loud atmosphere. They explain how the "house is full of sounds" with a loud television, communication on the telephone, and a crying baby. The author also relates this to "an overturned bucket of bells" implying that many individual bells will create a bigger noise, just as the individual activities contributed to the amount of noise in the house as well. Later in the story the mood shifts to the quietness of the house when the day rolls to an end. Here the entire quietness of the house comes from the shut-down devices such as the television, along with the dogs falling asleep. Within this peaceful state, the author continues to describe present noises that are found in the darkness. Some examples include the ticking of the watch, the house's little movements, and the mother's steps. From those sounds the author relates them to things that contribute to a bigger role. Like when they describe a wooden easel and an artist's workshop, or the extras to a movie set, or even the subtle sound of a drum in the background of a song.

I believe the author developed the theme of the poem very efficiently and showcased it throughout. By relating sounds to other noises, they showed me that the small things in life contribute to something bigger.

1560/6000

### 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 identifies a theme (*the small things in life contribute to something bigger*) and effectively analyzes how that theme is developed in the poem (*many individual bells will create a bigger noise, just as the individual activities contributed to the amount of noise in the house...the author relates them to things that contribute to a bigger role*). Specific evidence from the poem is integrated, using details, examples, and quotes that attribute information to the text (*They explain how the "house is full of sounds" with a loud television, communication on the telephone, and a crying baby*). The evidence is accurate and relevant and supports the analysis. The focused response includes a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. Transitions are used (*In the beginning of the story...Later in the story...Some examples include*). Precise language and content-specific vocabulary from the text are evident, and conventions of standard English are demonstrated.

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

#### Writer's Checklist

I think that the development of the theme of "The Atoms of Sound" is observation, because of how observant the speaker is through the passage.

What helps me understand how the theme is observation is by how the speaker emphasizes the different situations going on in his/her house. For instance, in the first stanza the speaker talks about when he/she arrives at home from school the dogs start to bark. Although, yes, they are barking, the speaker emphasizes how they bark wildly instead of just plain bark. He/she also adds how the dogs long claws click on the floor and how their fur are like "thick coats exhaling a steamy, summer storm." You can see how the speaker adds detail to how the dogs act when he gets home.

Another situation is in the second stanza at line eleven where the speaker talks about his/her baby brother crying, and just like the detail about the dogs barking, the speaker uses the word wailing instead of crying to show how a better characteristic of how the baby is crying. He/she also includes how their baby brother's fists are clenched tightly together to show how uncomfortable the baby must be.

A third and final way that the speaker was very observant about what was going on in the house was the different similes that were used through the passage. One example is in fourth stanza around line thirty where the speaker says, "I can hear my watch counting off the seconds, eating away at time like a quiet wave nibbling at sand." At this point you can see the speaker is indicating that the as the watch is counting the seconds passing by that it almost like a wave nibbling on sand showing that he/she is giving the quiet wave a human characteristic of nibbling or eating sand.

As you can see the speaker emphasizes different situations, and uses similes and details to help show that the development of the theme of "The Atoms of Sound," is observation.

1921/6000

### 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 analyzes how the theme of observation is developed through the speaker's emphasis on different situations going on in the house. The response analyzes implicit and explicit ideas from the text (*the speaker emphasizes how they bark wildly...you can see how the speaker adds detail to how the dogs act when he gets home...baby brother's fists are clenched tightly to show how uncomfortable the baby must be*). Relevant and accurate evidence integrated into the response supports the analysis. Use of paraphrases and quotes attribute information to the text. The response is focused with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. Errors in conventions seldom interfere with meaning.

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

#### Writer's Checklist

To me, this story had one main theme or central idea. The one theme would be that sounds are everywhere, and a huge part to your everyday life. This whole poem revolved around how sounds make up his daily life. Yet, there are many little ideas that come together to make the main, central idea. In the beginning, straight when the author walks into their house, their two dogs are barking and their long claws are clicking on the floor. This indicates that every second there is some type of sound. The author also indicates his house is extremely busy, mentioning "the house is full of sounds" and the entire stanza from lines 8 to 16. Sounds are apart of our everyday life, everything we see or do makes sound. While saying this, you learn the author is very observant. Not only does he talk about the loud sounds, he is aware of the tiny ones too. It's almost as if he hears every sound. The creaks in the floor board, the tiny breaths of his brother, the soft padding of his mother's feet, those are all examples of most tiny sounds that would go unnoticed by someone who wasn't observant. Finally, the last thing to make up the central idea were his thoughts on time and how sound made up everything we do. The story goes from day to night, and he is very observant of his surroundings too. He talks about how his watch is constantly ticking, eating time away. Not only does he recognize his surroundings and how fast time can go by, but also incorporates sound with time. Then, on the sound part, the author says, "All those little sounds are always there, doing their jobs." He recognizes that not only are the big sounds important, but they are all there and made up because of little sounds. The author also refers to small sounds as "extra's on a movie set." The author compares sounds to many things, making the reference that sound is in our everyday life, and that it is almost a form of art.

1901/6000

### Score Point 3

**This response demonstrates effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills.** This response addresses all parts of the task and demonstrates an understanding of the text. The response identifies a theme (*sounds are everywhere, and a huge part to your everyday life*) and analyzes how that theme is developed in the poem (*every second there is some type of sound...not only does he talk about the loud sounds, he is aware of the tiny ones too...He recognizes that not only are the big sounds important, but they are all there and made up because of little sounds*). Specific evidence from the poem is integrated to support the analysis (*two dogs are barking and their long claws are clicking on the floor...The creaks in the floor board, the tiny breaths of his brother, the soft padding of his mother's feet... The author also refers to small sounds as "extra's on a movie set"*). The response is focused includes a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. Transitions are used throughout (*Yet...In the beginning...also...Not only...Finally*). Precise word choice and content-specific vocabulary from the text are evident. Conventions of standard English are demonstrated. There are several errors in conventions present, especially in spelling, but they seldom interfere with meaning.

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

#### Writer's Checklist

In every day life sound is everywhere. But some people live life too quickly and worry too much about work that they forget how complex and comforting sound really is. The narator feels that sound is an amazing thing but people just go about their day ignoring it. The author discribes that even though times might seem quiet "All those little sounds are always there, doing their jobs." The author dicribes sounds like art. the author says that "they are the thin wooden easel in the artist's workshop." This quote from the passage discribes the bueaty of sound and how it relates to art. Sound is everywhere but it is your choice to hear it.

In the passage "The Atoms of Sound" the narator is begining to see just how important sound is. He/she is intrested in sound and pays close attention to hear every chirp of sound that is emitted from the atmosphere around him/her. The narator not only compares sound to art but the nature around it. He/she explains the change of sound "as the sun sets" and "a blanket of darkness settles." The narator discribes the sound of nothing, silence the only thing he/she can hear is their "watch counting off the seconds, eating away at time."

There is always sound but it is your choice to hear it. The author discribes that "these little noises are fundamental, that they are the minuscule atoms of sound." It is amzing how complex little atoms can create something as great as sound. By reading this passage it makes the reader think about sound in a new way, and wonder what intresting sounds they have missed.

1553/6000

### Score Point 3

**This response demonstrates effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills.** The response addresses the task and demonstrates an understanding of the poem. The response traces the development of several central ideas within the poem (*sound is everywhere but it is your choice to hear it... how complex and comforting sound really is... how important sound is*), but is not focused specifically on one theme. The response analyzes explicit and implicit ideas from the text (*the narrator feels sound is an amazing thing...the beauty of sound...pays close attention to hear every chirp of sound that is emitted from the atmosphere*). Specific evidence is integrated in the response through the use of examples and quotes. Relevant and accurate evidence supports the analysis of the central ideas presented. The response is partially focused and reordering of ideas would make the introduction, body, and conclusion more effective. Precise word choice is utilized. Errors in conventions seldom interfere with meaning.

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

#### Writer's Checklist

"The Atom of Sound" is a very detailed and descriptive poem. The words fit together like they are two peas in a pod. Using words like "steamy" and "furiously" make the piece more interesting to read. Sound is a very important thing in our lives even if there isn't anything around you, you still hear noise. This poem really brings to life the sounds you hear almost every day.

Description is one of the main reasons the poem is so astonishing. The Poet really gets into his/her work, making this work so beautiful. From get home to going to bed at night keeps the piece moving at all times. They start with "two dogs bark wildly, happy to see me, their long claws clicking the floor". Then start to describe what the coat looks like "their thick coats exhaling a steamy, summer storm." Moving on to what is happening on in the house "The house is full of sounds... chitchat on the telephone; my baby brother wailing". Not one detail being missed throughout the whole poem.

Literary devices are very useful also. Metaphors are mostly used in this piece. "All these sounds mix together in a jumbled cacophony". "They are the thin wooden easel in the artist's workshop, the extras on a movie set" there is a lot of metaphors. Mixing in some similes in there too "like an overturned bucket of balls." Alliteration (something you hardly come by) describing the dogs at the beginning "steamy, summer storm." Having personification is needed in a poem, it isn't a poem without personification. "All those little sounds... doing their jobs." These make the poem more interesting and fun to read.

Going from day to night with the sound calming down, it can show how much sound has gone unnoticed. "I can hear her heel pressing down and then her toes" showing us we can even hear the smallest of things. How much noise there is during the day. "The house is full of sound". Then going on and saying at night "As the sun sets, the sounds of the house change". Going from loud "my baby brother wailing". To something as calm as sleeping "The dogs are sleeping, their pink tongues dangling out of the sides of their mouths". Sound can change.

Sound is everywhere. Even if you can't see it being made. It follows you at your heels and sometimes you don't even know it. Sound is brought out in this poem more than once.

2311/6000

#### Score Point 2

**This response demonstrates partially effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills.** The response demonstrates some confusion about the task. It is only after a discussion of the description and literary devices used in the poem that ideas related to the theme are addressed. A theme is included in the conclusion, although it is not overtly identified as the theme of the poem (*Sound is everywhere. Even if you can't see it being made. It follows at your heels and sometimes you don't even know it*). There is some analysis in the fourth paragraph (*it can show how much sound has gone unnoticed...Sound can change*), but the analysis related to the development of a theme in the poem is so brief that it is only partially effective. Evidence from the poem is integrated in the fourth paragraph to show the transition from noisy day to quiet night, but much of the textual information provided in the response is not relevant to the task, making the overall use of evidence only partially effective. The response includes an introduction, conclusion, and topically defined body paragraphs. The response is only partially focused, drifting from a discussion of description to a discussion of literary devices and finally to a discussion of how sounds change from day to night. Precise word choice is used and conventions of standard English are demonstrated with few errors present.

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

#### Writer's Checklist

The Atoms of Sound, even the name explains it, it's based on sounds. Sounds are everywhere and we hear them all the time. "All those little sounds are always there, doing their jobs." They don't stop even when we do. They do their job day and night. We barely notice but they are always there waiting for us to hear them.

Everyone one should read "The Atoms of Sound", it shows that sounds will never stop. Sounds will always be everywhere we go. It shows the reader what it feels like to just think about sounds. Sounds aren't appreciated enough by us. We don't realize how important they are. "The Atoms of Sounds", shows people that they need to.

Sounds have jobs. Humans have jobs. Who's job is more important? Well, you see, they're both equally important. With out sounds some people wouldn't be able to have a job. Most jobs need to have sounds in order to function.

"The artist's workshop... extras on a movie set... quiet click of a drum..", all examples of sounds we hear. We hear everything, but do we notice them? No most don't, most people ignore sounds. Although, we here a lot of sounds, we tend to ignore them. We do hear them though.

"I overhear the footsteps of my mother," we sometimes hear things that we don't mean to hear. Sounds are very important. How else would we communicate? What if sounds didn't do their jobs? What a terrible thing that would be.

1384/6000

#### Score Point 2

**This response demonstrates partially effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills.** The response partially addresses the task. Although a theme is never explicitly stated, an attempt is made to explain that the poem is about sound. The response demonstrates a partial understanding of the text through some analysis of the explicit and implicit ideas from the poem (*Sounds are everywhere...They do their job day and night...We barely notice but they are always there*). Some relevant information from the poem is used in the final two paragraphs, but the integration of the information as evidence to support the analysis of the theme is only partially effective. Where direct quotations are used, the use of quotation marks attribute the information to the text. The response partially demonstrates an organizational pattern suited to the task as the response restates some of the key details from the poem. While the introduction does not present a thesis beyond "it's based on sounds," it does identify the ideas that will be discussed. Brief body paragraphs partially develop this idea. The final paragraph introduces new ideas (*we sometimes hear things we don't mean to hear...How else would we communicate?*), revisits one of the ideas discussed (*What if sounds didn't do their jobs?*), and ineffectively concludes the response. The response occasionally uses precise word choice and content-specific vocabulary from the text. Errors in conventions are present, though they seldom interfere with the meaning.

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

#### Writer's Checklist

Do you ever stop to listen to your house? Do you hear all of it's creaks and groans? All houses make these noises. If you just take a minute to listen to them you might find the sounds relaxing.

When you get home from school in the late afternoon you might hear the usual things. Your "dogs barking wildly, happy to see you, their long claws clicking the floor". You might also hear "the television turned up", "chitchat on the telephone", and perhaps your "baby brother wailing". "All these sounds mix together in a jumbled cacophony like an overturned bucket of bells." It can make it hard to be able to hear anything over all the noise surrounding you.

"As the sun sets, a blanket of darkness settles; the sounds of the house change." The dogs that were "barking wildly" hours ago "are sleeping, their tongues dangling out of the side of their mouths like thick ribbons." The television that was turned up high was "hushed hours ago". "And the once-noisy devices charge, inaudible now." You "can hear my watch counting off the seconds, eating away at the time like a quiet wave nibbling at the sand." Your house makes noises too. "I eavesdrop as the house shifts and settles, a creak from the wall, the squeaking of a nail as the wood expands and contracts."

"All of those little sounds are always there, doing their jobs." Every last one of them has a job to do. "They are the thin wooden easel in the artist's workshop, the extras on a movie set, the quiet click of a drum in the background of your favorite song." Some may be little but they are all important. "It's only when everything is peeled away, when the curtain fall on the loud sounds of industry and progress, that you realize these little noises are fundamental, that they are the minuscule atoms of sound."

Some of the noises you hear are small, but they all play a roll. "Little sounds are always there, doing their jobs." If you stop and listen to them you might find them quite relaxing.

1976/6000

#### Score Point 2

**This response demonstrates partially effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills.** The response addresses the task and demonstrates a partial understanding of the text by providing a partial analysis of the development of the central idea of the poem. The analysis presented is an extension of explicit ideas in the text (*When you get home from school in the late afternoon you might hear the usual things...Your house makes noises too*). An attempt is made to integrate many examples and quotes from the poem, however, there is little analysis for these to support making the use of evidence partially effective. Much of the response is simply a restatement of the poem and thus the response ineffectively demonstrates an organizational pattern and mode suited to the task. The response is partially focused. The introduction and conclusion indicate that a thesis (*If you just take a minute to listen to them you might find the sounds relaxing*) but the body does not develop this idea. Conventions of standard English are demonstrated with few errors present.

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

#### Writer's Checklist

The main idea of this poem is that sounds are always there in life and can create many different things. They are the foundation of everything we hear and even the tiniest bit of sounds are just a part of life. Like when it says an Atom of sound this is what it means, It's saying how an atom is a little part of the human body but is necessary for us to be human. So even the tiniest sounds are extremely needed for sounds to happen. The story also shows how sounds are everywhere. Even when we think it's silent you have to listen because there is always sound coming from somewhere. Sound creates that creativity that we love and is the base of it. So all in all this poem talks about how sound is everything and is the fundamental of everything, which it mentioned in the last couple lines. Sound is the atom in the world, small but vital to everything we do and hear.

870/6000

#### Score Point 2

**This response demonstrates partially effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills.** The response addresses the task and demonstrates a partial understanding of the text. The response partially analyzes the development of a theme in the poem (*sounds are always there in life and can create many different things*). Explicit and implicit ideas from the poem are partially analyzed. The response lacks specific details, examples, or quotes from the text and provides little or no evidence to support the analysis of a theme. The response is focused and includes a partially effective introduction, body, and conclusion. Precise word choice and content-specific vocabulary from the text are evident. Some errors in conventions interfere with meaning.

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

#### Writer's Checklist

The common theme of "The Atoms of Sound" is sound. The author talks about sound and the things that make sound.

First, the author said the word "sound" six times in the poem. He said "hear" twice in the poem. He even talks about sounds a lot.

Then, there are a lot of sounds the author describes. TV, breathing, music, clicking, and footsteps are some sounds that he talks about.

The reason why sound is the common theme is the author talks about sound and the places the sound is at. He mostly talks about the small sounds.

In conclusion the common theme of "The Atoms of Sound" is sound. All the author talks about are the sounds and things that make sounds.

689/6000

#### Score Point 1

**This response demonstrates minimal analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills.** The response minimally addresses the task and demonstrates minimal understanding of the text. As the response relates to the topic of the poem rather than the theme (*The common theme of "The Atoms of Sound" is sound*), the analysis of ideas from the text is ineffective. Information from the poem is presented but does not support the analysis of a theme. While specific evidence from the text is mentioned, it is minimally integrated into the response. The response is partially focused and includes a partially effective introduction, body, and conclusion. Several errors in conventions are present and may interfere with meaning.

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

#### Writer's Checklist

To start the atoms of sound is about a poem that talks about all different natural kinds of sounds. The poem talks about how when he gets home from school he can hear his dogs barking, and also how he can hear his mothers footsteps in the hallway. This poem uses a lot of fugurative language such as the dogs sleeping and there pink tongues dangling out of there mouth like thick ribbons. All these sounds are sounds that you hear and see and smell in your everyday life even if you dont relize the sounds they have talked about in this poem. A simile in this poem is I can hear my watch counting off the seconds, eating away at time like a quiet wave nibbling at the sand. In conclusion this poem had a lot of fugurative language also had a lot of sounds you didn't notice in your everyday life.

798/6000

#### Score Point 1

**This response demonstrates minimal analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills.** The response attempts to address the task, but fails to demonstrate an understanding of the development of theme in the poem. The response demonstrates minimal analysis of text as it consists solely of an initial attempt to describe what the poem is about (*all different natural kinds of sounds*) and a discussion of literary devices (*This poem uses a lot of fugurative language...a simile in this poem is...*). The response ineffectively analyzes the explicit and implicit ideas from the poem and the analysis is, at times, unclear (*All these sounds are sounds that you hear and see and smell in your everyday life even if you don't relize the sounds they have talked about in this poem*). The response attempts to integrate information from the text through the use of details and examples, but the information provided is not relevant and does not support the analysis. The response generated is minimally focused. Errors in conventions seldom interfere with meaning.

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

#### Writer's Checklist

The theme of this story is that time goes by but things are always happening. Why I say this is because in the poem it talks about how the clicking of his clock goes on and on with every second, and yet he just stays there listening. No matter where you go something will always be happening. Or when his brother is sleeping and his breathing is normal and even, but you never know if something will happen that will change that. Things go on around you that you don't know about, but if you sit there and listen then things might come just a little bit clearer.

564/6000

#### Score Point 1

**This response demonstrates minimal analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills.** The response attempts to address the task through the identification of a theme (*time goes by but things are always happening*). The response demonstrates minimal understanding of the text and the development of theme in the poem. The analysis of explicit and implicit ideas from the text is ineffective (*when his brother is sleeping and his breathing is normal and even, but you never know if something will happen that will change that*). There is minimal integration of evidence from the text and little relevant evidence is provided (*the clicking of his clock goes on and on... his brother is sleeping*). The response is minimally focused and includes a minimal introduction, body, and conclusion. There is minimal use of precise word choice. Errors in conventions seldom interfere with meaning.