North Carolina
READY End-of-Course Assessment
English II

Student Booklet
**Moonrise**

*by Jenette Purcell*

City night sky

gives itself to me again

when I have so little left to receive it.

I am dark, crumbling

and you are rivers and trees away

searching your own night sky for a sign.

The strong gates of your heart

are wide open to me always, but,

if only.

So I wait, as seasons before, decades before,

fathers and mothers before me still inside

watch and listen.

Suddenly,

bamboo, bones, fiber, fences,

water, glistening koi,

all the tiny rooms,

paths and places I hold your memories

relax

in audible, reverent wonder

Which line from the poem describes the speaker’s feelings about loving someone?

A. “when I have so little left to receive it”

B. “are wide open to me always, but”

C. “paths and places I hold your memories”

D. “at the fullness forming”
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15 water, glistening koi,7
all the tiny rooms,
paths and places I hold your memories
relax
In audible, reverent wonder
at the fullness forming
20
Select (click) on the line that conveys the idea of passing time.

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Selected:

So I wait, as seasons before, decades before,
fathers and mothers before me still inside
watch and listen.
Select (by clicking) the synonym that can replace *reverent* in the poem.

**Excerpt from Moonrise**

*by Jenette Purcell*

Suddenly, bamboo, bones, fiber, fences, water, glistening koi,*
all the tiny rooms,
paths and places I hold your memories relax
in audible, **respectful** wonder
at the fullness forming on this horizon’s edge.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Synonym</th>
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Test Questions

Geology Fieldnotes: Big Bend National Park, Texas

Park Geology

Big Bend is a special place to study geology. The rocks are clearly exposed, thanks to sparse vegetation and recent erosion. A remarkable array of geologic processes are displayed here, from volcanoes and landslides to fossils and flash floods.

A Land of Constant Change

That portion of the earth’s surface known as “the Big Bend” has often been described as a “geologist’s paradise.” In part this is due to the sparse vegetation of the region, which allows the various strata to be easily observed and studied. It is also due to the complex geologic history of the area, presenting a challenge to students and researchers from all over the world. Not all field geologists, however, refer to the Big Bend as a paradise. For some, this land of twisted, tortured rock is a nightmare.

The abundance, diversity and complexity of visible rock outcrops is staggering, especially to first-time observers. From 500-million-year-old

According to the selection, why has “the Big Bend” been described as a “geologist’s paradise”?

A. because it contains rocks
B. because many geologists vacation there
C. because sparse vegetation allows easy access to interesting strata
D. because there are many jobs for geologists there
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For almost 10 million years after uplift ended, nonmarine sediments of the Tertiary period constitute the only record of events in the Big Bend. Dinosaurs had long been gone from the land, their places taken by a proliferation of mammals, many of whose remains have been found in Big Bend ... horses, rhinos, camels and rodents, as well as fossils of the plants on which they thrived.

All was not to remain quiet for long. Near the present northwest boundary of Big Bend National Park, the first of a long series of volcanic eruptions occurred approximately 42 million years ago.

Select (click) the synonym that reflects the meaning of the word proliferation in the excerpt below.

- a decline
- a subordination
- an increase
- an observance

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<th>How does the author achieve his purpose?</th>
<th>A by using descriptive phrases to explain difficult ideas</th>
<th>B by using only formal scientific language to list data</th>
<th>C by using bulleted phrases to clarify ideas</th>
<th>D by using quotes from famous people to support facts</th>
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Item 8 of 53
Memories

by Marya Zaturensky

Lower New York City at noon hour

There is a noise, and then the crowded herd
Of noon-time workers flows into the street.
My soul, bewildered and without retreat,
Closes its wings and shrinks, a frightened bird.

5 Oh, I have known a peace, once I have known
The joy that could have touched a heart of stone—
The heart of holy Russia beating still,
Over a snow-cold steppe and on a hill:
One day in Kiev I heard a great church-bell
Crying a strange farewell.

10 And once in a great field, the reapers sowing
Barley and wheat, I saw a great light growing
Over the weary bowed heads of the reapers;
As growing sweeter, stranger, ever deeper,
From the long waters sorrowfully strong,
Came the last echoes of the River Song.

Which lines from the poem support the theme?

A “...once I have known / The joy that could have touched a heart of stone—”

B “One day in Kiev I heard a great church-bell / Crying a strange farewell.”

C “From the long waters sorrowfully strong, / Came the last echoes of the River Song!”

D “Here in this alien crowd I walk apart / Clasping remembered beauty to my heart!”
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15 How does the author’s use of rhyme scheme enhance the theme of the poem?

A The rhyming couplets in the stanzas about Russia are rhythmic and soothing.
B The different rhyme patterns are jarring, and mirror the noise of the city.
C The rhyming lines are subtle in comparison to the growing light.
D The rhyme pattern mimics the songs of the birds in the country.
Select (click) the synonym that reflects the meaning of the word alien as used in the excerpt below.

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Barley and wheat, I saw a great light growing  
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Came the last echoes of the River Song!

Here in this alien crowd I walk apart  
Clasping remembered beauty to my heart!

- bolsterous
- unfamiliar
- comparable
- exuberant
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Barley and wheat, I saw a great light growing
Over the weary bowed heads of the reapers;
As growing sweeter, stranger, ever deeper,
From the long waters sorrowfully strong,
Come the last echo of the Blue-Cross.

In line 18, what is the meaning of the phrase "clasping remembered beauty"?

A imagining future events
B recalling past events
C creating current events
D forgetting past events
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Over the last echoes of the pipe Gould.

How has the speaker changed between the first and last stanzas of the poem?

A She is less meek after remembering beautiful moments from her days in Russia.

B She is even more overwhelmed by her hectic surroundings in New York City.

C She is more aggressive toward the other people in the street.

D She is now confidently intermixing with her fellow walkers.
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Gone the last edge of the blue grass.

What does the speaker achieve in the poem with her description of New York?

A. She forges a connection with the audience’s sense of gratitude.
B. She presents a stark contrast to the beauty of her homeland.
C. She describes how to pass time during the hectic rush hour.
D. She confesses her feelings of bitterness and remorse.
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Came the last notes of the Blue Coast.

How does the speaker's point of view affect her impression of the bustle of New York?

A. The speaker feels welcomed and embraced by the citizens of New York.
B. The speaker is excited by the differences between home and the new city.
C. The speaker feels excluded in a strange and frightening place.
D. The speaker is cautious and curious about life in a large, new city.
Excerpt from “The Castaway”

by Rabindranath Tagore

Towards evening the storm was at its height. From the terrific downpour of rain, the crash of thunder, and the repeated flashes of lightning, you might think that a battle was raging in the skies. Black clouds waved like the Flags of Doom. The Ganges was lashed into a fury, and the trees of the gardens on either bank swayed from side to side with sighs and groans.

In a closed room of one of the riverside houses at Chandernagore, a husband and his wife were seated on a bed spread on the floor, intently discussing. An earthen lamp burned beside them.

The husband, Sharat, was saying: “I wish you would stay on a few days more; you would then be able to return home quite strong again.”

The wife, Kiran, was saying: “I have quite recovered already. It will not, cannot possibly, do me any harm to go home now.”

Every married person will at once understand that the conversation was not quite so brief as I have reported it. The matter was not difficult, but...
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How does the use of personification in the first paragraph help develop the setting?

A. It emphasizes the loudness of the storm.
B. It emphasizes the cause of the storm.
C. It emphasizes the damage of the storm.
D. It emphasizes the severity of the storm.
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What is the meaning of the simile in the sentence below from paragraph 5?

“Like a rudderless boat, the discussion kept turning round and round the same point; and at last it threatened to be overwhelmed in a flood of tears.”

A. It describes two people who are crying because they finally came to a solution.

B. It describes an endless argument between two people.

C. It depicts a husband and his wife engaged in a minor argument.

D. It describes an insolvable argument between a husband and his wife, threatening to deteriorate into tears.
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What is implied in the sentence below from paragraph 10?

“The village wiseacres thought it shameless for her husband to make so much fuss about a mere wife and even to suggest a change of air, and asked if Sharat supposed that no woman had ever been ill before, or whether he had found out that the folk of the place to which he meant to take her were immortal.”

A. Sharat is stubborn and refuses to listen to his wife’s pleas.

B. Sharat has a difficult time making decisions independently without his wife.

C. Sharat is unnecessarily overprotective of his wife.

D. Sharat should be more compassionate about his wife’s condition.
Select (by clicking) the synonym that reflects the meaning of *disconsolately* in the excerpt.

Excerpt from "The Castaway"
by Rabindranath Tagore

Kiran was fond of society and amusement; the loneliness of her riverside villa did not suit her at all. There was nothing to do, there were no interesting neighbors, and she hated to be busy all day with medicine and dieting. There was no fun in measuring doses and making fomentations. Such was the subject discussed in their closed room on this stormy evening.

So long as Kiran deigned to argue, there was a chance of a fair fight. When she ceased to reply, and with a toss of her head *disconsolately* looked the other way, the poor man was disarmed. He was on the point of surrendering unconditionally when a servant shouted a message through the shut door.

- accidentally
- unhappy
- seriously
- excitedly
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What is one possible reason why Kiran takes “a warm interest” in the Brahmin boy?

A. He is an actor and can entertain while he is there.
B. She uses the Brahmin boy to make Sharat jealous.
C. He is handsome and more patient with her than Sharat.
D. She has narrowly escaped death too and can relate to his experience.
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What does Kiran’s reaction to the arrival of the young boy reveal about her character?

A. She is selfish and uncaring about the needs of others.
B. She needs to be social and active with others.
C. She misses being a mother and being needed.
D. She is excited by change and craves challenges.
In the sentence below from the last paragraph, how does the connotation of the words reflect Sharat’s attitude toward the boy?

"Moreover, he had got hold of a mongrel village dog which he petted so recklessly that it came indoors with muddy paws, and left tokens of its visit on Sharat’s spotless bed."

A. He feels protective of the young boy.
B. He is annoyed by the boy’s disregard for cleanliness.
C. He is amused by the boy’s activities.
D. He feels the boy’s actions are unhealthy.
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How does the author introduce additional depth to the conflict between the husband and wife?

A. by having Sharat and his mother desiring for the guest to leave
B. by explaining why the wife was very ill
C. by using a stormy evening as the initial setting
D. by describing a character who arrives by unusual circumstances
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The wife, Kiran, was saying: “I have quite recovered already. It will not, cannot possibly, do me any harm to go home now.”

Every married person will at once understand that the conversation was not quite so brief as I have reported it. The matter was not difficult, but

How does the author’s use of third person point of view reinforce the reader’s understanding of Sharat’s internal conflict?

A. It describes the motives behind Sharat’s initial argument with his wife and why he accepts the boy into their home.

B. It explains why Sharat and his mother ignored the advice of the village wiseacres.

C. It explains what caused Sharat to change his mind about Nilkanta.

D. It describes why Sharat and his wife sometimes argue without a clear solution.
Excerpt from “Meet the Moai of Easter Island”

by Gigi Guerra

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Select (click) the phrase that reflects the meaning of "solitude built into its DNA" as used in the excerpt below.

**Excerpt from “Meet the Moai of Easter Island”**

*by Gigi Guerra*

Named by a Dutch explorer who landed there on Easter Sunday, 1722, Easter Island was actually settled centuries earlier, likely by curious Polynesians drifting eastward in catamarans, and later by South American migrants. Nobody knows for sure. As with most things about this island, from its volatile history involving colonial meddling and an ecosystem collapse to the origins of its hybridized language to the story of the moai, or monolithic lava-rock figures, there’s speculation but no consensus. And that’s what makes it so fascinating. Not to mention the inherent loneliness of the place, both geographically and culturally: Years of disease, coupled with massively depleted resources, at one point nearly wiped out the population (in the late 1800s, barely 100 islanders were left). It’s a destination with **very little influence from other places in the world**.
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What can be inferred from paragraph 2?

A. Europeans are clearly connected to Easter Island’s most famous attraction.

B. Europeans are not as central to the island’s history as some may think.

C. Europeans were the origiators of Easter Island’s famous moai sculptures.

D. Europeans have completely rewritten Easter Island’s history.
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Excerpt from Anna Karenina: Chapter 5
by Leo Tolstoy

Stepan Arkadyevitch had learned easily at school, thanks to his excellent abilities, but he had been idle and mischievous, and therefore was one of the lowest in his class. But in spite of his habitually dissipated mode of life, his inferior grade in the service, and his comparative youth, he occupied the honorable and lucrative position of president of one of the government boards at Moscow. This post he had received through his sister Anna's husband, Alexey Alexandrovich Karenin, who held one of the most important positions in the ministry to whose department the Moscow office belonged. But if Karenin had not got his brother-in-law this berth, then through a hundred other personages—brothers, sisters, cousins, uncles, and aunts—Stiva Oblonsky would have received this post, or some other similar one, together with the salary of six thousand absolutely needful for them, as his affairs, in spite of his wife's considerable property, were in an embarrassed condition.

Half Moscow and Petersburg were friends and relations of Stepan Arkadyevitch. He was born in the midst of those who had been and are the powerful ones of this world. One-third of the men in the government, the older men, had been friends of his father's, and had known him in childhood; another third were his intimate cronies, and the remainder...
Select the sentence from the excerpt that demonstrates the main character’s sense of entitlement. Select only one response.

One-third of the men in the government, the older men, had been friends of his father’s, and had known him in petticoats; another third were his intimate chums, and the remainder were friendly acquaintances. Consequently the distributors of earthly blessings in the shape of places, rents, shares, and such, were all his friends, and could not overlook one of their own set; and Oblonsky had no need to make any special exertion to get a lucrative post. He had only not to refuse things, not to show jealousy, not to be quarrelsome or take offense, all of which from his characteristic good nature he never did. It would have struck him as absurd if he had been told that he would not get a position with the salary he required, especially as he expected nothing out of the way; he only wanted what the men of his own age and standing did get, and he was no worse qualified for performing duties of the kind than any other man.

Selected:

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In the selection, what is the purpose of the sentences below from paragraph 9?

- “If they knew,” he thought, bending his head with a significant air as he listened to the report, “what a guilty little boy their president was half an hour ago.” And his eyes were laughing during the reading of the report.

A. to display the humorous tone of the selection as a whole
B. to explain the atmosphere of the boardroom meeting
C. to provide visual imagery
D. to show Stepan’s playful attitude
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What can be inferred from the statement below in the last paragraph?

“Oblonsky, with his ready tact, felt that Levin fancied he might not care to show his intimacy with him before his subordinates, and so he made haste to take him off into his room.”

A. The phrasing demonstrates the cunning employed by Stepan in this scene.

B. The phrasing displays how the statement contrasts with the description of Levin in the rest of the selection.

C. The phrasing maintains Stepan’s characterization as a valiant man.

D. The phrasing builds suspense over Stepan and Levin’s relationship and its relevance to the plot.
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Based on paragraph 4, what can be inferred about Stepan Arkadyevitch’s character? Use evidence from the selection to support your response.
Excerpt from *To the Person Leaving*

by Alicia Dujovne Ortiz, translated by Amanda Hopkinson

I have emigrated three times in my life. In 1978, I emigrated from Argentina to come to France, because a military dictatorship had taken hold in my country. In 1999, I emigrated from France, where I'd lived for twenty years, in order to return to Argentina, because I missed it so much. And in 2002, I emigrated from Argentina to return to France, because a financial dictatorship had taken hold in my country. This triple experience of emigration from one side of the planet to the other permitted me to compare the two. The Argentines now leaving are not the same as those who left earlier. The earlier émigrés discussed matters as if they understood them. Today's maintain only a perplexed silence.

Before them there had been, of course, others. It is not necessary to repeat here the cliché of the artist who traveled to make his mark in Paris at the turn of the last century, or that of the estate-owner who did much the same, but brought his cow along with him. I met successors to the first type in the 1960s and 1970s; unfortunately I did not meet any of the second type (had we managed to coincide, I could, perhaps, have claimed a glass of milk for my sustenance), but they clearly did not constitute my kind of a more permanent élite did they earlier emigration.

Which statement summarizes the central idea of the selection?

A. The author wants an émigré to recognize the costs of staying or leaving, realizing that neither is more courageous nor cowardly than the other.

B. The author feels that, though life may be lost in Argentina, it is more courageous to remain in one's homeland.

C. The author wishes to expose those who leave as cowards, though she herself has fled twice.

D. The author wants émigrés to take the story of Argentina into the world and share their grief.
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In paragraph 3, what effect does the word generously have on the selection?

A. It shows that the author feels fortunate to have been safe in Europe.
B. It shows that the author includes herself as a member of the intellectual class.
C. It shows that the author is being serious when she describes the division of the population as being ridiculous.
D. It shows that the author does not agree that most exiles were intellectuals.
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What is the effect of the metaphor in the sentence below from paragraph 4?

"Only, at the time, the prestige attached to the journey was such that those who did not leave attempted to justify themselves by discrediting those who did—the long-suffering sippers who had found themselves obliged to swallow the salty caviar of exile."

A. It shows that the safety of exile was small compared to the costs.
B. It shows that exile was not a pleasant experience.
C. It shows that exile was only for special occasions and for those who were wealthy.
D. It emphasizes how those individuals who were exiled were ridiculed by those who were not.
Excerpt from *To the Person Leaving*
*by Alicia Dujovne Ortiz, translated by Amanda Hopkinson*

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What is the effect of the phrase below from paragraph 4 on the overall selection?

"the long-suffering sippers who had found themselves obliged to swallow the salty caviar of exile."

A. The allegory demonstrates the perceived importance of some of the people who left.

B. The simile exemplifies the repeated use of figurative language as a rhetorical device.

C. The metaphor illustrates the idea that some of the people who left suffered their special kind of suffering.

D. The alliteration signals and emphasizes a place deserving special attention from the reader.
**Excerpt from To the Person Leaving**  
*by Alicia Dujovne Ortiz, translated by Amanda Hopkinson*

I have emigrated three times in my life. In 1978, I emigrated from Argentina to come to France, because a military dictatorship had taken hold in my country. In 1999, I emigrated from France, where I’d lived for twenty years, in order to return to Argentina, because I missed it so much. And in 2002, I emigrated from Argentina to return to France, because a military dictatorship had taken hold in my country. This triple experience of emigration from one side of the planet to the other permitted me to compare the two. The Argentines now leaving are not the same as those who left earlier. The earlier emigrants discussed matters as if they understood them. Today’s maintain only a perplexed silence.

Before them there had been, of course, others. It is not necessary to repeat here the cliché of the artist who traveled to make his mark in Paris at the turn of the last century, or that of the estate-owner who did much the same, but brought his cow along with him. I met successors to the first type in the 1960s and 1970s; unfortunately I did not meet any of the second type (had we managed to coincide, I could, perhaps, have claimed a glass of milk for my sustenance), but they clearly did not constitute any kind of a more permanent life did the earlier emigrants.

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**What is the purpose of the figurative language in the sentence below from the last paragraph?**

“In 2002, the difference between those who left and those who stayed no longer attracted capital letters (for we live in a lowercase era, without great pretensions).”

**A** The description of the two eras demonstrates the author’s ironic tone while differentiating the change in perception between the time periods.

**B** The description of the two eras shows the importance of language to the author.

**C** The description of the two eras eliminates the possibility that the two time periods were similar in any way.

**D** The description alludes to previous use of analogies and metaphors by the author which demonstrates the similarity between the two time periods.
Excerpt from *To the Person Leaving*

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Which statement describes the connection between the selection and the oxymoron "both at the same time"?

A. The division between the two groups is not as distinct in the more recent, financial crisis as it was during the dictatorship.

B. Many of those who stayed, as well as those who left, lost their homes and were exiles.

C. Those who left had the freedom to protest, while those who stayed were afraid to protest.

D. The author criticizes Argentina, despite her immigration during turbulent times.
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What can be inferred from the author’s focus on Argentina’s troubled past and present situation?

A. The people who have left Argentina are better off than those who stayed.
B. The people who have stayed in Argentina are better off than those who left.
C. The Argentinian people as a whole have lost any sense of security.
D. The leaders of Argentina have made life intolerable for all Argentinian citizens.
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You have completed the test.

Please remember, teachers are not allowed to discuss items from the test with you, and you are not allowed to discuss with others any of the test questions or information in the test.

Exit