

Vermont Item Bank Reading Passage Annotations

Grade 8 - LITERARY TEXTS				
Title & Author	Genre	Summary	Content/Theme Connections	Instructional Connections
1. “Barbara Frietchie” by John Greenleaf Whittier	19 th century poem about a historical event	A Civil War story of Stonewall Jackson riding into a Maryland town, where he is bested by an older woman’s bravery	<u>Social Studies</u> Women Civil War Narrative poetry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literary devices Author’s craft Character analysis (<i>Note: God is referenced in this poem.</i>)
2. Aesop’s Fables	Two fables	Each fable has a moral stated at the bottom.	Genre study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plot Characterization Author’s message Literary devices
3. City of the Silent by Michael Priestley	Realistic fiction	A slice of family life in the morning, with a depressing tone	Loneliness Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making inferences Character motivation Character change Impact of narrator
4. from Little Women by Louisa May Alcott	19 th century fiction	Four sisters bemoan their lack of money to spend on Christmas	Transcendentalists Concord, MA Bronson Alcott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making inferences Character traits Dialogue Literary devices Theme
5. “Departure” (from <i>Winesburg, Ohio</i> by Sherwood Anderson)	Early 20 th century fiction	A young man’s perspective as he makes an early-morning departure from his small town by train	Entry into manhood Small-town America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrator’s perspective Character motivation Author’s message
6. from Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain	19 th century American fiction by the master	Tom uses reverse psychology to get help painting the fence	Mark Twain Humor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literary devices Dialogue Conflict Character Irony
7. from Les Misérables by Victor Hugo	19 th century French classic	A former convict seeks lodging in a small French town	French literature World literature Social injustice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making inferences Character motivation Character change Setting
8. from Vice Versa by F. Anstey	American 19 th century fiction	While having a disagreement, a boy and his father undergo an unexpected transformation	Victorian literature Social classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflict Literary devices Dialogue Theme Irony Idioms

Grade 8 - INFORMATIONAL TEXTS				
Title & Author	Genre	Summary	Content/Theme Connections	Instructional Connections
1. “Remembering the Hunley” by Michael Priestley	Factual account	The <i>Hunley</i> was the first submarine used in the Civil War; it sank a ship before disappearing	Civil War American History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading for information • Cause/effect
2. “Madam C.J. Walker” by Stacey Sparks	Biography	First self-made, African-American woman millionaire	Turn-of-the-century African-American women <i>The Color Purple</i> <i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarizing • Main idea/detail • Cause/effect
3. “California Condors” from the National Park Service	Factual information	Concise information about the California condor	<u>Science</u> raptors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarizing • Making inferences • Main idea/detail • Fact/opinion
4. “Learning from History” by Michael Priestley	Factual account	An account of the Galveston hurricane of 1900 written as a timeline	<u>Science</u> Natural disasters <u>Social studies</u> Disaster planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting graphic with text • Summarizing • Chronology/timeline • Cause/effect
5. “How Would Your Body Change in Space?” from a NASA website	Factual account	An explanation of the effects on the body of lack of gravity in space	<u>Science</u> Gravity Adaptation Circadian rhythm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose • Fact/opinion • Credibility of sources • Main idea • Text features
6. from <i>The Story of My Life</i> by Helen Keller	Autobiographical, primary source document	In Helen Keller’s own words, how she lost her sight and hearing and how she learned to communicate from her teacher	<u>Social studies</u> Helen Keller Annie Sullivan People with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author’s purpose • Author’s bias • Use of ellipsis • Words in context • Meaning of transition
7. Speeches by Tecumseh and Chief Joseph	Primary source documents	Separate speeches by Native Americans Tecumseh (1810) and Chief Joseph (1877)	<u>Social studies</u> Native American studies Westward Expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author’s purpose and tone • Words in context • Dialect
8. Mesa Verde National Park	Informational website	Factual information about a national park in the Southwest which features cliff dwellings of the Pueblo	<u>Social Studies</u> Pueblo Indians Cliff dwelling in the Southwest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using text features to locate information • Evaluating the organization of the text

Grade 10 - LITERARY TEXTS				
Title & Author	Genre	Summary	Content/Theme Connections	Instructional Connections
1. "Piano" and "Autumn"	Poetry	Two poems, each expressing a longing for the past	D.H. Lawrence Jean S. Untermyer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making inferences • Character change • Summarizing • Theme/message • Compare/contrast
2. "The Bell of Justice"	Fable from India	A wise king, a cruel man, and a horse	World literature Indian literature Fables/folktales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shades of meaning • Words with multiple meanings • Character motivation • Narrator's perspective • Theme/message
3. from "The Open Boat" by Stephen Crane	Short story based on an true incident	Four men adrift in a lifeboat discuss their fate	American literature Naturalism Stephen Crane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting + Conflict • Making inferences from dialogue • Making predictions • Point of view • Use of literary devices
4. from "An Upheaval" by Anton Chekov	Short story excerpt	A governess with a wealthy family is accused of having stolen a brooch	Class differences in 19 th century Russia Anton Chekhov World literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of ellipsis + similes • Conflict • Narrator's perspective
5. "The Story of Persephone"	Greek myth	The kidnapping of young Persephone by Hades, the god of the Underworld, causes her mother to take revenge	Greek mythology: Zeus, Demeter, Hades, Persephone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict • Imagery + Idioms • Author's style • Making inferences about character • Cause/effect • Moral/lesson •
6. from "A Pair of Silk Stockings" by Kate Chopin	19 th century short story excerpt	A young mother unexpectedly has money to spend and has a decision to make	American literature Characterization Internal conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making inferences about character • Foreshadowing • Conflict/problem • Making predictions • Character motivation
7. from <i>Treasure Island</i> by Robert Louis Stevenson	19 th century English adventure	A young boy is intrigued with a mysterious boarder in his father's inn	English literature Character study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting + mood • Characterization • Organizing events • Making inferences about character • Imagery/foreshadowing
8. from <i>The War of the Worlds</i> by H. G. Wells	19 th science fiction	A scientist and his colleague investigate a space ship from Mars	Science fiction H.G. Wells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making predictions • Narrator's impact on reader • Using text examples to support an assertion

Grade 10 - INFORMATIONAL TEXTS				
Title & Author	Genre	Summary	Content/Theme Connections	Instructional Connections
1. Discoveries at Jamestown by John L. Cotter	Factual account	Archaeological findings at the Jamestown settlement and their importance	<u>Social studies</u> Early colonization Archaeology Daily life in early 17 th century America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main idea/details • Credibility of source • Making connections within text • Drawing conclusion or making assertions
2. “Mary White” by William Allen White	19 th century tribute to a young girl’s life	Description of the life and death of a young girl	Eulogies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawing conclusions • Cause/effect • Author’s purpose/tone
3. from Hawaii’s Story by Liliuokalani	Autobiography	Personal account by the last queen of Hawaii in a time of transition	Hawaiian culture Culture clash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Side bar as a text feature • Main idea • Categorizing and charting information
4. “Applying for a Passport”	Informational website from U.S. government	Organized, sequential steps for applying for a US passport	“how to” documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using text features • Drawing conclusions • Connecting information within a text • Evaluating organization
5. “Moondust and Duct Tape”	NASA website	Factual account of a problem encountered on the moon in 1972 <i>Challenger</i> mission	<u>Science</u> Early moon explorations NASA missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawing conclusions • Cause/effect • Obtaining information from text features • Evaluating the accuracy of the information
6. from Up from Slavery by Booker T. Washington	Autobiography	This section describes what Booker’s family did after slavery was officially ended	<u>Social studies</u> Slavery South post-slavery Emancipation Proclamation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cause/effect • Author’s purpose • Drawing conclusions • Detecting author’s bias
7. Two Views of Homework	Letters to a newspaper	Persuasive writing: one pro and one con	Persuasive writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author’s purpose • Main idea/detail • Organizing contrasting information
8. from The Trial of Susan B. Anthony	Transcript of part of an 1872 trial of a famous suffragette	The exact words spoken by Susan B. Anthony and Judge Hunt, as she protests the suppression of her rights and he tries to assert his authority	<u>Social studies</u> Women’s suffrage movement Susan B. Anthony Civil rights for women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading dialogue • Primary source document • Making inferences • Main idea • Words with multiple meanings in context • Cause/effect

Progress Assessments

Test	1st Passage	Items	2nd Passage	Items
1	"Barbara Frietchie"	1-10	from <i>The Story of My Life</i>	11-25
2	Aesop's Fables	1-10	"How Would Your Body Change in Space?"	11-25
3	from <i>City of the Silent</i>	1-10	Speeches by Tecumseh and Chief Joseph	11-25
4	from <i>Little Women</i>	1-10	Mesa Verde National Park	11-25
5	"Remembering the <i>Hunley</i> "	1-10	"Departure"	11-25
6	"Madam C.J. Walker"	1-10	from <i>Tom Sawyer</i>	11-25
7	"California Condors"	1-10	from <i>Les Miserables</i>	11-25
8	"Learning from History"	1-10	from <i>Vice Versa</i>	11-25

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2	"The Bell of Justice"	1-10	"Moondust and Duct Tape"	11-25
3	from "The Open Boat"	1-10	Two Views of Homework	11-25
4	from "An Upheaval"	1-10	The Trial of Susan B. Anthony	11-25
5	<i>Discoveries at Jamestown</i>	1-10	The Story of Persephone	11-25
6	"Mary White"	1-10	from <i>Treasure Island</i>	11-25
7	from "Hawaii's Story"	1-10	from <i>War of the Worlds</i>	11-25
8	Applying for a Passport	1-10	from "A Pair of Silk Stockings"	11-25