



ELA/Literacy
Released Item 2016

Grade 7
Conventions

Sample Student Responses
(from 1 released task)

Conventions Anchor Set A1 – A4

With Annotations

Blake was very nervous, he was sweating because if he turned the book over then he wouldn't know what the book was going to be. He touched the book and again.

"Ouch!" Blake exclaimed

Blake was now suffering from two paper cuts. Blake took the book. He opened it to the first page.

"Words?" Blake asked himself silently.

There were many words all scrambled in many places. Blake read them and read them over and over again. Then, Blake seemed to notice something. A shadow, a shadow seemed to be very tall.

All of the sudden, Blake started to feel heavy breathing on his neck. Blake did not want to turn around because he didn't know what the object behind him was going to be. Blake turned around very slowly.

"Ahh!" Blake screamed in fear.

It was the stern-looking portrait that looked like a magician. Just like in the portrait it was wearing a dark robe, a dark cape, and a sharp pointy beard. Except it had a black face, Blake could not see a thing were his face was.

"Leave, leave right now! And don't dare to come back!" the magician screamed.

"Okay, I will never come back again," Blake sobbed in fear.

Blake sprinted out of the library as fast as he can. Blake has never seen himself run that fast before hin his life.

"That was close," Blake said out of breath.

Blake's heart was beating so fast like someone playing the drums.

Blake never went back to that library again, and he also never told his mom about it. If his mom went to the library again he would either stay home or hang out with his friends.

Annotation

Anchor Paper 1

Score Point 3

This response demonstrates full command of the conventions of standard English at an appropriate level of complexity. Despite some errors, spelling is mostly correct (*nervous, suffering, scrambled, sobbed*). The writing demonstrates control of a variety of sentence structures and verb tenses. Punctuation, including punctuation around dialogue, is correct. There are a few errors in grammar and usage but they do not impede understanding.

At the end of the excerpt from *Endymion Spring*, Blake seems to feel that the book is waiting for him to turn it over. I think if Blake turns it over, that something magical or mysterious might happen. In other stories that is mostly what happens, or nothing could happen, it could just be a normal book.

"I feel that the book is meant for me mom" said Blake. "Well let's bring it home so you can see it's just a normal book" suggested mom. So when Blake took it home, the title was *The Mystery of the Mummy*. But when Blake opened up the book, he was taken away to Ancient Egypt. While Blake was there, he had met the Pharaoh, but the Pharaoh did not like Blake at all, so the Pharaoh had people to go hunt down Blake so he could be killed and be made into a mummy. Then Blake heard about it, so he had to go find the book so he could go back to the normal world. When Blake got back, he ran to his mom and said, "we need to go take this book back to the Library. It is just a normal book."

Annotation

Anchor Paper 2

Score Point 2

Some command of the conventions of standard English is demonstrated at an appropriate level of complexity for the grade level. Sentence constructions are controlled (*At the end of the excerpt from Endymion Spring, Blake seems to feel that the book is waiting for him to turn if over*) and titles are appropriately capitalized and designated as literary works through the use of italics (*Endymion Spring* [and] *The Mystery of the Mummy*). Some errors exist in usage (*turn if [it] over*), spelling (*mysterical, ment*), capitalization (*mom, Library, we*), and punctuation (omitted commas and apostrophes); these errors occasionally impede understanding, but meaning is generally clear.

Blake reached down and ran his finger over the spine of the book. He carefully lifted one edge up a black figure scurried out from underneath it and under the bookshelf. Blake took a step back and followed it to the edge of the bookshelf crouched down and looked under and heard hissing and scratching. "Blake!" his mom scolded "What on earth are you doing? Didn't I ask you to pick that book up"...

Annotation

Anchor Paper 3

Score Point 1

This response demonstrates limited command of the conventions of standard English at an appropriate level of complexity. Dialogue is punctuated incorrectly and commas are frequently missing. However, some sentences are correctly constructed. The response contains spelling errors, but many grade appropriate words are spelled correctly (*scurried, underneath, hissing, scolded*). Although much of the writing is correct, the brevity of the response and errors that occur demonstrate a limited command of conventions at this grade.

He slowly reaches for the book and picks it up he turns it around, And reads the title "The life of Paula Richards" as he read the title he said to him self "wait I just saw her" he opens the book and see the dates 1990-2004. He quickly went to his mother and ask "Mom were is Ms.Richards" his mother looked at him with a confused look "She passed away two years ago".

Annotation

Anchor Paper 4

Score Point 0

The response demonstrates no command of the conventions of standard English at the grade seven level of complexity. Several unsuccessful attempts are made to form and punctuate complex sentences (. . . *as he read the title he said to him self"wait I just saw her"*). In addition to the errors in sentence formation, there are errors present in usage (*him self*), punctuation, subject-verb agreement (*he opens the book and see the dates*), and verb tense maintenance (*He slowly reaches for the book . . . And reads the title . . . as he read the title he said . . . He quickly went to his mother and ask*). Collectively, the frequency and variety of errors impede understanding.