

Oklahoma School Testing Program



Oklahoma Core Curriculum Tests

2010–2011 Released Items

End-of-Instruction
ACE English III

**Oklahoma State Department of Education
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

Acknowledgements

"The Call of the Wild" by Robert W. Service. From *The Spell of the Yukon, and Other Verses* by Robert W. Service (1874–1958). Published by Barse & Hopkins, New York, 1907.

"After Twenty Years" by O. Henry. From *The Four Million* by O. Henry (William Sidney Porter, 1862–1910). Copyright 1902 by Ess Ess Publishing Company.

"The Slave's Complaint" by George Moses Horton. From *Poems by a Slave*, published in *Memoir and Poems of Phillis Wheatley, A Native African and a Slave* by I. Knapp, Boston, 1838. Illustration originally accompanies the 1837 broadside, "Our Countrymen in Chains" by John Greenleaf Whittier and provided by the Library of Congress.

"Narrative of Sojourner Truth." From the *Narrative of Sojourner Truth: a northern slave, emancipated from bodily servitude by the state of New York*, in 1828. Dictated by Sojourner Truth (ca. 1797–1883); edited by Oliver Gilbert. Published and printed for the author, Boston, 1850 (privately published by William Lloyd Garrison).

Photograph of Sojourner Truth, 1864, Courtesy of the Library of Congress (Number LC-USZ62-119343).

The Pearson logo consists of the word "PEARSON" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid black rectangular background. A thin white curved line is positioned below the text, resembling a stylized horizon or a smile.

Section 1

Section 1

Directions



In some communities, boys and girls have the opportunity to attend gender-specific high schools. Only girls go to one high school, and only boys go to another high school.

Write a persuasive essay taking a position on whether or not you favor gender-specific schools. Be sure to support your position with reasons, examples, and/or personal experiences.

Section 2

Section 2

Read this passage about a reunion. Then answer the questions that follow.

After Twenty Years

by O. Henry



- 1 The policeman on the beat moved up the avenue impressively. The impressiveness was habitual, though spectators were few. The time was barely 10 o'clock at night, but chilly gusts of wind with a taste of rain had de-peopled the streets.
- 2 Trying doors as he went, turning now and then to cast his watchful eye down the thoroughfare,¹ the officer made a fine picture of a guardian of the peace. The vicinity was one that kept early hours. Now and then you might see the lights of a cigar store or of an all-night lunch counter, but the majority of the doors belonged to businesses that had long since closed for the night.
- 3 About midway in a certain block, the policeman suddenly slowed his walk. A man leaned in the doorway of a darkened hardware store, an unlighted cigar in his mouth. As the policeman walked up to him, the man spoke up quickly.

¹ **thoroughfare:** main road

4 "It's alright, officer," he said, reassuringly. "I'm just waiting for a friend. It's an appointment made twenty years ago. Sounds a little funny to you, doesn't it? Well, I'll explain if you'd like to make certain it's all straight. About that long ago there was a restaurant here called Big Joe Brady's."

5 "Until five years ago," said the policeman. "It was torn down then."

6 The man in the doorway struck a match and lit his cigar. The light showed a pale, square-jawed face with keen eyes, and a little white scar near his right eyebrow. His scarf pin was a large diamond, oddly set.

7 "Twenty years ago tonight," said the man, "I dined here at Big Joe Brady's with Jimmy Wells, my best chum. He and I were raised here in New York, just like brothers. I was eighteen and Jimmy was twenty. The next morning I was to start for the West to make my fortune. You couldn't have dragged Jimmy out of New York; he thought it was the only place on earth. Well, we agreed that night that we would meet here again exactly twenty years from that date and time, no matter what. We figured that in twenty years each of us ought to have our destinies worked out."

8 "Sounds pretty interesting," said the policeman. "Rather a long time between meets, though. Haven't you heard from your friend since you left?"

9 "Well, yes, for a time we corresponded," said the other. "But after a year or two we lost track of each other. You see, the West is a pretty big proposition, and I kept hustling around. But I know Jimmy will meet me here if he's alive, for he always was the truest chap in the world. He'll never forget. I came a thousand miles to stand in this door tonight, and it's worth it if my old partner turns up."

10 The waiting man pulled out a handsome watch, set with small diamonds.

11 "Three minutes to ten," he announced. "It was exactly ten o'clock when we parted here at the restaurant door."

12 "Did pretty well out West, did you?" asked the policeman.

13 "You bet! I hope Jimmy has done half as well. He was a kind of plodder, though, good fellow as he was. I've had to compete with some of the sharpest wits going to get my pile. A man gets in a rut in New York. It takes the West to put a razor's edge on him."

14 The policeman twirled his club and took a couple steps.

15 "I'll be on my way. Hope your friend comes around. Going to call time on him sharp?"

16 "I should say not!" said the other. "I'll give him half an hour at least. If Jimmy is alive, he'll be here by that time. So long, officer."

17 "Goodnight, sir," said the policeman, continuing on his beat, trying doors as he went.

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- 18 A fine, cold drizzle was now falling, and the wind had risen. In the door of the hardware store, the man who had come a thousand miles to fill an appointment with the friend of his youth smoked his cigar and waited.
- 19 About twenty minutes later, a tall man in a long overcoat, with collar turned up to his ears, hurried across from the opposite side of the street. He went directly to the waiting man.
- 20 "Is that you, Bob?" he asked.
- 21 "Is that you, Jimmy Wells?" cried the man in the door.
- 22 "Bless my heart!" exclaimed the new arrival, grasping both of Bob's hands in his own. "It's Bob, sure as fate. I was certain I'd find you here if you were still in existence. Well, well, well! Twenty years is a long time. The old restaurant's gone, Bob. I wish it had lasted so we could have had another dinner there. How has the West treated you?"
- 23 "It's given me everything I asked it for. You've changed lots, Jimmy. I never thought you were so tall by two or three inches."
- 24 "Oh, I grew a bit after I was twenty."
- 25 "Doing well in New York, Jimmy?"



- 26 “Moderately. I have a position in one of the city departments. Come on, Bob; we’ll go around to a place I know of and have a good long talk about old times.”
- 27 The two men started up the street. The man from the West, his ego enlarged by success, was beginning to outline the history of his career. The other, submerged in his overcoat, listened with interest.
- 28 At the corner stood a drug store, brilliantly illuminated. When they came into this glare, they turned simultaneously toward each other.
- 29 The man from the West started suddenly.
- 30 “You’re not Jimmy Wells!” he snapped. “Twenty years is a long time, but not long enough to change a man’s nose from straight to pug!”
- 31 “It sometimes changes a good man into a bad one,” said the tall man. “You’ve been under arrest for ten minutes, ‘Silky’ Bob. Chicago thinks you may have dropped over our way and wants to have a chat with you. Now, before we go to the station, here’s a note I was asked to hand you. You may read it here at the window.”
- 32 The man from the West unfolded the little piece of paper handed him. His hand was steady but trembled by the time he had finished. The note was rather short.
- 33 Bob: I was at the appointed place on time. When you struck the match to light your cigar, I saw it was the face of a man wanted in Chicago. Somehow I couldn’t do it myself, so I went around and got a plainclothesman to do the job. Jimmy

Section 2

1 Which event causes the first police officer to learn the truth about the man in the doorway?

- A The officer notices the man standing in the dark doorway.
- B The man in the doorway tells the officer he is waiting for a friend.
- C The man in the doorway strikes a match and then lights his cigar.
- D The man in the doorway says it has been twenty years since he has seen his friend.

2 "A man gets in a rut in New York. It takes the West to put a razor's edge on him."

What was the man implying by saying, "It takes the West to put a razor's edge on him"?

- F Successful businessmen spend a lot of time traveling.
- G Competition with other men will sharpen a man's wits.
- H Familiarity with his environment will help a man settle down.
- J A man looks most respectable when his face is clean shaven.

3 "I'll be on my way. Hope your friend comes around. Going to call time on him sharp?"

What is another term for the word sharp?

- A exactly
- B quickly
- C painfully
- D pointedly

4 At the end of the passage, the letter to Bob revealed which piece of previously concealed information?

- F The first officer had recently been to Chicago.
- G The first officer was Bob's friend from the past.
- H The second officer was Bob's friend from the past.
- J The second officer had recently been assigned to Chicago.

5 Which is most likely the theme of this passage?

- A Police work can be dangerous.
- B Travel provides opportunities for change.
- C Old friends can change considerably over time.
- D Financial success produces the most positive results.

6 If a student wanted to do a presentation about possible occupations in criminal justice, which resource would be the most helpful?

- F an online site with suggestions for job applications
- G a state college's list of undergraduate courses offered
- H an interview with a career counselor at a career technology site
- J the employment section of a newspaper's classified advertisements

Section 2

Read this poem. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Call of the Wild

by Robert W. Service



Have you gazed on unspoiled grandeur where there's nothing else to gaze on,
Set pieces and drop-curtain scenes galore,
Big mountains heaved to heaven, which the blinding sunsets blazon,
Black canyons where the rapids rip and roar?

- 5 Have you swept the visioned valley with the green stream streaking through it,
Searched the Vastness for a something you have lost?
Have you strung your soul to silence? Then for God's sake go and do it;
Hear the challenge, learn the lesson, pay the cost.

- Have you wandered in the wilderness, the sagebrush desolation,
10 The bunch-grass levels where the cattle graze?
Have you whistled bits of rag-time at the end of all creation,
And learned to know the desert's little ways?
Have you camped upon the foothills, have you galloped o'er the ranges,
Have you roamed the arid sun-lands through and through?
15 Have you chummed up with the mesa¹? Do you know its moods and changes?
Then listen to the Wild — it's calling you.

¹**mesa:** an isolated flat-topped hill

- Have you known the Great White Silence, not a snow-gemmed twig aquiver?
(Eternal truths that shame our soothing lies.)
Have you broken trail on snowshoes? mushed your huskies up the river,
20 Dared the unknown, led the way, and clutched the prize?
Have you seen God in His splendors, heard the text that nature renders?
(You'll never hear it in the family pew.)
The simple things, the true things, the silent men who do things —
Then listen to the Wild — it's calling you.
- 25 They have cradled you in custom, they have primed you with their preaching,
They have soaked you in convention through and through;
They have put you in a showcase; you're a credit to their teaching —
But can't you hear the Wild? — it's calling you.
Let us probe the silent places, let us seek what luck befalls us;
- 30 Let us journey to a lonely land I know.
There's a whisper on the night-wind, there's a star a gleam to guide us,
And the Wild is calling, calling . . . let us go.

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7

Have you roamed the arid sun-lands through and through?

If the poet wanted to find a word to use in place of arid, which would be the best source for him to use?

- A a glossary
- B a thesaurus
- C an almanac
- D an encyclopedia

8 **Which line from the poem contains the best example of alliteration?**

- F Have you strung your soul to silence? Then for God's sake go and do it;
- G Have you known the Great White Silence, not a snow-gemmed twig aquiver?
- H Dared the unknown, led the way, and clutched the prize?
- J Let us probe the silent places, let us seek what luck befalls us;

9 **The poet uses the refrain**

- A to signal changes in mood.
- B to reinforce the main idea.
- C to establish the rhythm.
- D to introduce new ideas.

10 Based on this poem, what would Robert W. Service most likely want to do for his children?

- F teach them to keep secrets
- G help them learn to sing well
- H teach them to respect nature
- J send them to excellent schools

11 Which study guide question would be most useful in helping a reader understand the main idea of the poem?

- A What message is the poet trying to send?
- B Who is the main character in the poem?
- C What type of setting does the poet use?
- D When was this poem written?

12 What would be the best research question to use when developing a presentation about Robert W. Service as a writer?

- F Where did Service live when he was growing up?
- G How many of Service's poems are about his life?
- H When did Service visit the wilderness and write about it?
- J Which philosophies had the most impact on Service's writing?

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You will now read two related passages and answer questions that follow. Some of these questions will ask you to compare the two passages.

The Slave's Complaint

by George Moses Horton



- 1 Am I sadly cast aside,
on misfortune's rugged tide?
Will the world my pains deride
For ever?
- 2 Must I dwell in Slavery's night,
And all pleasure take its flight,
Far beyond my feeble sight,
For ever?
- 3 Worst of all, must Hope grow dim,
And withhold her cheering beam?
Rather let me sleep and dream
For ever!
- 4 Something still my heart surveys,
Groping through this dreary maze;
Is it Hope? — then burn and blaze
For ever!

- 5 Leave me not a wretch confined,
Altogether lame and blind —
Unto gross despair consigned,
For ever!
- 6 Heaven! in whom can I confide?
Canst thou not for all provide?
Condescend¹ to be my guide
For ever:
- 7 And when this transient life shall end,
Oh, may some kind, eternal friend
Bid me from servitude ascend,
For ever!

¹**condescend:** to agree to do something beneath one's rank or dignity

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13

Leave me not a wretch confined,
Altogether lame and blind—
Unto gross despair consigned,
For ever!

In this stanza from “The Slave’s Complaint,” the word consigned means

- A freed.
- B damaged.
- C saddened.
- D submitted.

14 Which literary technique does the poet use to develop his main idea in “The Slave’s Complaint”?

- F tone
- G irony
- H allegory
- J foreshadowing

15 In “The Slave’s Complaint,” the poet wants readers to be able

- A to explain how slavery began.
- B to apply the teachings emphasized in the poem.
- C to understand his thoughts and feelings about slavery.
- D to enjoy the story about an experience included in the poem.

Read this passage which goes with the previous passage. Then answer the questions that follow.

Narrative of Sojourner Truth

as told to Olive Gilbert

Sojourner Truth, whose name originally was Isabella, was born between 1797 and 1800. She was the daughter of slaves in New York. This section of her personal account describes what happened when she was bought by a Mr. Dumont of New York in 1810.



- 1 Mr. Dumont, naturally a man of kind feelings, treated his slaves with all the consideration he did his other animals, and more perhaps. Since her parents had taught her to be considerate and hard working, Isabella did her best to please her master. As a result of her hard work, she earned her master's confidence and received many small favors that were unattainable by other slaves. When asked if her master, Dumont, ever whipped her, she answered, "Oh, yes, he sometimes whipped me soundly, though never cruelly."
- 2 At this time she looked upon her master as a god. If anyone talked to her of the injustice of her being a slave, she answered them with contempt and immediately told her master. She then firmly believed that slavery was right and honorable. She now sees very clearly the false position they were all in, both masters and slaves. She now looks back, with utter astonishment, at the

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foolishness of the claims so arrogantly set up by the masters—that they could rule over other beings also designed by God to be as free as kings—and at the perfect stupidity of the slave in admitting for one moment the validity of these claims.

3 Yet Isabella was proud that she had been faithful and true to her master; it helped to form in her a character that loved truth and hated a lie.

4 Emancipation of all slaves in New York was to take place in 1828. Some years before that, Isabella’s master had told her if she would do well, and be faithful, he would give her “free papers,” one year before she was legally free by statute. In 1826 she had a badly diseased hand, which greatly diminished her usefulness; however, on July 4, 1827, the time specified for her receiving her “free papers,” she claimed the fulfillment of her master’s promise. But Mr. Dumont refused to grant it, citing the loss he had sustained because of her hand. She pleaded that she had worked all the time, although she knew she had been less useful than formerly. Her master remained inflexible. Her very faithfulness probably operated against her, and he found it less easy than he had thought to give up the profits of his faithful Isabella, who had so long done him efficient service.

5 But Isabella inwardly determined that she would remain with him only until she had spun his wool, and then she would take her infant son and leave. “Ah!” she said, “the slaveholders are terrible for promising to give you this or that, or such and such a privilege, if you will do thus and so. When the time of fulfillment comes, and one claims the promise, they recollect nothing of the kind, and you are taunted with being called a liar or accused of not having performed your part of the contract.”

6 Nevertheless, she continued with her master till the wool was spun and the heaviest of the fall’s work completed. At that time, she decided to take her freedom into her own hands and seek her fortune in some other place.

7 The question in her mind, and one not easily solved, was “How can I get away?” Finally, the thought came to her that she could leave just before the day dawned; she could leave the neighborhood where she was known before people were astir. So one morning, just before daybreak, she stepped stealthily away from the rear of Master Dumont’s house, her infant on one arm and a bundle containing her clothes and provisions on the other.

8 As she gained the summit of a high hill a considerable distance from her master’s, the sun offended her by coming forth in pure splendor. Indeed, she thought it much too light. She stopped to look about her and ascertain if her pursuers were yet in sight. No one appeared, and for the first time, this question came up for settlement: “Where shall I go?” In all her thoughts of getting away, she had not once asked herself whither she should direct her steps.

- 9 And soon it occurred to her that there was a man living in the direction she had been pursuing by the name of Levi Rowe. She had known him for some years and thought he would be likely to befriend her. She walked on to his house, where she found him ready to assist her even though he had been ill for some time. He said he knew of a good place where she might get in and offered to take her there.
- 10 As soon as she came in sight of the house, she recollected having seen it and its inhabitants before. She exclaimed, "That's the place for me; I shall stop there." She was kindly received by Mr. and Mrs. Van Wagener. They listened to her story, assuring her they never turned the needy away, and willingly gave her employment.
- 11 She had not been there long before her old master, Dumont, appeared, as she had anticipated. When she had left, she had resolved not to go too far from him and not put him to much trouble in looking her up. She did this because Mr. Dumont had sometimes considered her feelings, though not always, and she had been equally considerate of his.
- 12 When her former master saw her, he said, "Well, Isabella, so you've run away from me."
- 13 "No, I did not run away; I walked away by daylight because you had promised me a year of my time," she answered.
- 14 "You must go back with me," he insisted.
- 15 "No, I won't go back with you," she responded.
- 16 "Well then, I shall take the child," Mr. Dumont stated.
- 17 But Isabella stoutly negated his demand.
- 18 Mr. Van Wagener then intervened, saying he had never been in the practice of buying and selling slaves; he did not believe in slavery, but, rather than have Isabella taken back by force, he would buy her services for the balance of the year—for which her master charged twenty dollars, and five in addition for the child. The sum was paid, and her master Dumont departed—but not before he had heard Mr. Van Wagener tell Isabella not to call him master. Isabella inquired what she should call him.
- 19 "Call me Isaac Van Wagener, and my wife is Maria Van Wagener," he said to her in response.
- 20 Isabella could not understand this and thought it a mighty change: it most truly was, from a master whose word was law to simple Isaac Van Wagener, who was master to no one.
- 21 She resided there for one year until emancipation, and from them she derived the name of Van Wagener. He had been her last master in the eye of the law, and a slave's surname is ever the same as his master.

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—and at the perfect stupidity of the slave in admitting for one moment the validity of these claims.

In “Narrative of Sojourner Truth,” the word validity means

- F unselfishness.
- G unkindness.
- H foolishness.
- J soundness.

17 Based on “Narrative of Sojourner Truth,” how did the politics of the day impact Dumont?

- A He lost his farm because he freed all his slaves.
- B He campaigned to stop the emancipation of slaves.
- C He received extra payment for work done by Isabella.
- D He was forced to deal with the loss of a valuable asset.

18 “Narrative of Sojourner Truth” can best be described as

- F an essay.
- G an editorial.
- H a biography.
- J a short story.

19 What issue did both Isabella and Horton face?

- A** how to find better masters
- B** how to gain freedom
- C** when to run away
- D** where to live next

20 How was Isabella different from Horton?

- F** Isabella encouraged slaves to run away for their safety.
- G** Isabella thought her life was beyond her control.
- H** Isabella was depressed by her inability to work.
- J** Isabella changed her beliefs about slavery.

Section 2

21

Worst of all, must Hope grow dim,
And withhold her cheering beam?

A student wants to compare the poem and the passage for a report. Which part of the passage reflects the same feelings as these lines from the poem?

- A Isabella's initial reaction to Dumont's refusal to honor his promise
- B Isabella's feelings about Dumont whipping her soundly
- C Dumont's response to Isabella leaving him
- D Van Wagener's confrontation with Dumont

22 **What views of slavery are portrayed in the passage and the poem?**

- F Slavery is shown to be evil in the passage and appropriate in the poem.
- G Slavery is portrayed as fair and justifiable in both the passage and the poem.
- H Slavery is described as a contract in the passage and as imprisonment in the poem.
- J Slavery represents a political belief in the passage and a moral obligation in the poem.

Read this excerpt by L. Frank Baum about a polar bear. Think about what suggestions you would make and then answer the questions that follow.

Excerpted from

The King of the Polar Bears

by L. Frank Baum

1 The seals was afraid when the polar bear king drew near, and tried to
2 avoid him; but the gulls, both white and gray, loved him because he left
3 the remnants of his feasts for him to devour.

4 Often his subjects, the polar bears, came to him for advice when ill or in
5 trouble; but they wisely kept away from his hunting grounds, lest they
6 might interfere with his sport or arouse his anger.

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23 What change, if any, should be made to was afraid in line 1?

- A** has been afraid
- B** were afraid
- C** is afraid
- D** no change

24 What change, if any, should be made to him in line 3?

- F** it
- G** they
- H** them
- J** no change

Read the next part of the excerpt, think about what suggestions you would make, and then answer the questions that follow.

7 The wolfs, who sometimes came as far north as the icebergs whispered
8 among themselves that the King of the Polar Bears was either a
9 magician or under the protection of a powerful fairy. For no earthly thing
10 seemed able to harm him; he never failed to secure plenty of food and
11 he grew bigger and strong day by day and year by year.

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25 What change, if any, should be made to wolfs in line 7?

- A wolf's
- B wolfes
- C wolves
- D no change

26 What change, if any, should be made to lines 10 and 11?

- F he never failed to secure plenty of food; and he grew bigger
- G he never failed to secure plenty of food, and he grew bigger
- H he never failed to secure plenty of food. And he grew bigger
- J no change

27 What change, if any, should be made to strong in line 11?

- A more strong
- B strongest
- C stronger
- D no change

STOP

END OF SECTION 2

