Grade 5 ELA
Common Core Assessments
Inferences and Details
RL.5.1

It Includes:
A Full Literature Passage
Close Reading & Multiple Choice
A Fully Annotated Sample Response & More

Revision 1
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How to Use

This document contains an informational text passage to use along with the assessment of your choice from this document. A multiple-choice assessment as well as a written response assessment have been included. Use the assessment format that best suits your student’s needs. Or, use both! Since written responses will vary, a rubric has been included for assessing student performance. An answer key has been included for assessing multiple-choice answers.
The early morning came alive with the squawks of robins chirping noisily in the tangled branches of trees overhead. And as she did each morning, Ms. Mildred pushed through the front door of her home, arms folded in a pretzel knot, and looked at her blooming petunias to ensure that no one had touched them. A bird fluttered down from an overreaching tree branch onto a shrub planted a few feet away from Ms. Mildred.

Restless, Ms. Mildred peered at the bird. “Don’t even think about touching my petunia’s either,” she scowled. Ms. Mildred gave the bird one final glare, adjusted her cane, and then paraded back into her tiny home.

There was plenty to do back inside of the house. The tiny home barely ran the length of two vans front to edge and was entwined on the shady edge of the forest. Ms. Mildred had planned to seal up every hole in her kitchen for the third time in a week to ensure that no mouse wandered inside to get a free meal. If they did, they were in for a stern lecture from Ms. Mildred.

Right as Ms. Mildred began to seal the fourth corner hole, she heard a soft rapping on her door. Who is that? She wondered. Ms. Mildred lived alone, and she never had any visitors. She opened the door and realized the sound was from a wayward branch that tapped the door as it swayed with each rhythmic gust of wind. Ms. Mildred saw the leaning branch and sighed. Lowing her eyes, she turned around and closed the door.

A day passed, and as usual Ms. Mildred awakened early to check on her petunias. While she made her way to the front of her house, Ms. Mildred felt soft fur rub against the bottom of her leg. It was a small cat. The kitten arched its back and crushed against Ms. Mildred’s ankle, making a purring sound as it moved.

“I don’t particularly like cats. So if you could kindly get off of my leg, it would be appreciated,” announced Ms. Mildred. But the cat looked at Ms. Mildred and let out a sour purr. Then, it extended its front legs into a long stretch.

Maybe it’s hungry, thought Ms. Mildred. She went back inside to get a bowl of milk.

Ms. Mildred shrugged her shoulders and walked toward her house. This day, she had planned to cover her windows to keep out the sounds of the birds’ morning chirping. This was going to take a while; so Ms. Mildred was eager to get to work. The kitten just looked at Ms. Mildred and let out a soft meow.
Hammering and sawing could be heard from Ms. Mildred’s house as she clanked away at the boards she intended to use to seal the windows. From the corner of her eye, Ms. Mildred could see the soft grey fur of the cat there curled in a ball resting comfortably on her porch.

*If that cat touches my petunias he is in for a surprise!* snapped Ms. Mildred. She put down her hammer and went outside to tell the kitten a thing or two. As soon as Ms. Mildred approached the porch, the kitten uncurled itself and rubbed its fur against Ms. Mildred’s leg once more.

*Oh, it is kind of cute*, thought Ms. Mildred. A brief smile extended on her face. The kitten twirled and looked up at Ms. Mildred. She rushed inside of the house. Within a few minutes, Ms. Mildred was back outside with a bowl of milk for the cat.

The kitten lapped noisily at the milk sending tiny beads of liquid onto the edges of the bowl as it drank.

“You must not have eaten in a while,” said Ms. Mildred as she adjusted her shawl. “Who do you belong to?” There was not a collar, so Ms. Mildred guessed that the kitten did not belong to anyone though she was not too sure.

Ms. Mildred had never had any pets and was sure that a kitten would be nothing but trouble. She left the bowl and the kitten on the front porch and marched back inside of the house to get back to work.

Every once in a while, she interrupted her hammering to look out the window at the kitten. Each time she glanced, the kitten was still there as though it was standing guard on Ms. Mildred’s porch.

Early the next day, Ms. Mildred decided to go outside as she usually did in the morning. Instead of checking on her petunia’s she decided to water them. She figured that the flowers were pretty safe. Ms. Mildred even hummed a song as she moved about her yard. It was a song that she had loved when she was a small child. Searching around to discover if the kitten was still there, Ms. Mildred saw the small cat trotting from a spot on the edge of her yard to her direction. Nuzzling the bottom of Ms. Mildred’s leg, the kitten eyed a caterpillar as it waddled onto a clump of dirt. She bent down to pick up the small cat and rubbed its soft fur against the side of her face. The fur reminded Ms. Mildred of a soft pillow.

“I think you need a home,” said Ms. Mildred as she carried the kitten into her house.

Days passed. Through morning to night the cat and Ms. Mildred laughed and played. By the way, Ms. Mildred decided to stop checking her petunias. She figured they were fine.
Inference and Details
ELA Common Core Standard RL.1
Written Response Format

Directions: Based on what you have read, how and why did Ms. Mildred change from the beginning to the end of the story?

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Directions: Answer the multiple choice questions below about the information that you read from the passage entitled ‘The Visitor’.

1. Which detail supports the reason why Ms. Mildred stopped checking her petunias each morning?
   a. The kitten arched its back and crushed against Ms. Mildred’s ankle, making a purring sound as it moved.
   b. A bird fluttered down from an overreaching tree branch onto a shrub planted a few feet away from Ms. Mildred.
   c. Every once in a while, she interrupted her hammering to look out the window at the kitten.
   d. Instead of checking on her petunia’s she decided to water them.

2. What impact did the kitten have on Ms. Mildred?
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

3. Why did Ms. Mildred look out her window every once in a while as she did her hammering?
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

4. How are the sentences in the last three paragraphs on the first page of the story related to each other?
   a. They show that Ms. Mildred has a great amount of work to finish quickly.
   b. They describe how Ms. Mildred cannot take a lot of noise.
   c. They compare Ms. Mildred’s previous life alone to her new life with a pet.
   d. They show Ms. Mildred’s thoughts about the kitten are softening.

5. Which sentence from the passage best supports the answer that was chosen for question four?
   a. “You must not have eaten in a while,” said Ms. Mildred as she adjusted her shawl.
   b. Ms. Mildred decided to stop checking her petunias.
   c. There was plenty to do back inside of the house.
   d. But the cat looked at Ms. Mildred and let out a sour purr.
Common Core ELA Performance Rubric
English Language Arts
Written Response Rubric

ELA Standard RL.5.1: Quote accurately from text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emerging 1</th>
<th>Developing 2</th>
<th>Satisfactory 3</th>
<th>Proficient 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There are inaccuracies in the student response. Few or no details are included to support student thinking.</td>
<td>The response is mostly quoted accurately. Most of the information that the student provides is information that is directly stated. There are few or no inferences.</td>
<td>The response is quoted accurately. The student includes some inferences and refers to some details that are directly stated in the text.</td>
<td>The response is quoted accurately. The student includes several inferences and refers to several specific details that are directly stated in the text.</td>
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Directions: Select the score from the category that best reflects student performance.

Student Score ________________________

Teacher Comments:______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
**EXEMPLAR SCORE (4)**
Sample Student Written Response
Inferences and Details
ELA Common Core Standard RL.5.1
Written Response Format

Directions: Based on what you have read, how and why did Ms. Mildred change from the beginning to the end of the story?

In the beginning of the story, Ms. Mildred was a grumpy and lonely person. The author shows this by explaining how each morning Ms. Mildred went outside early to check her petunias. The actions of checking to make sure that no one had bothered her petunias as unnecessary. The fact that Ms. Mildred wanted to "cover her windows to keep out the sounds of the birds chirping" also shows that she was grumpy. Wanting to cover windows to keep out the sounds of birds is extreme. The author gives an indication of why Ms. Mildred behaved this way early in the story. She lived alone and had not had a visitor in years. Ms. Mildred was lonely, and her way of expressing this was to act out in anger at all of the animals that she came in contact with. She was snappy at any birds that got too close to her plants. Ms. Mildred intended to scold any mouse that wandered into her home as well.

A chance encounter with a kitten changed Ms. Mildred’s point of view. According to the story, “Ms. Mildred felt soft fur rub against her leg.” The kitten did not appear to have an owner, and the fact that it would not leave Ms. Mildred’s side seemed to warm Ms. Mildred’s heart. It rubbed against her leg, purred, and each time Ms. Mildred looked outside as she hammered, the kitten remained on the porch. Ms. Mildred progressed from thinking that the kitten were a problem to giving the cat a bowl of milk to drink. Ms. Mildred became a warmer person and shows this in the way that she befriended the cat and took it into her home eventually. Once she had this companionship, Ms. Mildred no longer felt the need to check on her petunias. She even stated that she believed the petunias did not need to be checked because they would be fine.

Scoring notes:
The student demonstrates understanding by being able to read a text and indentify both inferred information and explicit information to support the answer to the question. A student that would receive a high score on this type of question would need to compare and contrast Ms. Mildred’s personality and supply evidence to support the character traits that Ms. Mildred exhibited at both the beginning and the end of the text. Plus, a student will need to identify the factor that helped Ms. Mildred change. Strong written responses would include both inferences and text details. The student states several details that demonstrate the idea of change and motives for why Ms. Mildred was grumpy at the beginning of the story and later became warmhearted at the end of the text. (i.e...She lived alone and had not had a visitor in years, ...it rubbed against her leg, purred, ... and each time Ms. Mildred looked outside as she hammered, the kitten remained on the porch). The student also includes more text support by providing evidence of Ms. Mildred’s change. (i.e...she believed the petunias did not need to be checked.). The student also weaves in interpretation by stating the idea that (i.e...Once she had this companionship, she no longer needed to check on her petunias.).

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Inferences and Details
ELA Common Core Standard RL.5.1
Multiple-Choice Format Answer Key

**Scoring:** Each correct answer has been identified. Explanations for each answer choice are included at the bottom of the page.

1. **A**

2. The kitten caused Ms. Mildred to change. At first she was grumpy because she was lonely. Once she found the kitten, Ms. Mildred became warmhearted.

3. **D**

4. **B**

5. **A**

**Answer Choice Explanations**

1. The correct answer is **A**. To answer this question correctly, a student would need to first infer why Ms. Mildred changed. Then, the student would have to identify a text detail that gives information about this reason. Ms. Mildred changed because she found a cuddlesome kitten. Answer choice ‘A’ is best because it tells about how Ms. Mildred first noticed the kitten.

2. The written response, “The kitten caused Ms. Mildred to change. At first she was grumpy because she was lonely. Once she found the kitten, Ms. Mildred became warmhearted,” is the best response because is shows how finding the kitten directly impacted Ms. Mildred. Ms. Mildred was snappy toward animals and even wanted to cover her windows to block out the sounds of birds chirping. The reader begins to notice a change in Ms. Mildred’s attitude once the kitten appears. Ms. Mildred gives the kitten milk and later gives it a home as well.

3. The correct answer is **D**. These sentences show Ms. Mildred being more gentle. They show a marked change in her behavior.

4. The correct answer is **B**. To answer this question correctly, a reader would have to first identify the fact that Ms. Mildred had become warmhearted and was no longer grumpy. This is evident in the end when Ms. Mildred stops checking on her petunias.

5. The correct answer is **A**. In the beginning of the text, Ms. Mildred described kittens as being troublesome. As time progressed, she began to grow concerned about the kitten’s welfare and wanted to help it.