

ELA 7<sup>th</sup> grade  
1<sup>st</sup> 9-weeks Study Guide for Benchmark

7L1

1. What is the sentence structure for the following sentence?

I went to the spring to get some water, and I saw a deer drinking there.

- a. Simple
- b. Compound
- c. Complex
- d. Compound/complex

7L5

2. What type of figurative language is used in the sentence below?

Crouching in the corner, the cabinet was dark and dank.

- a. Personification
- b. Simile
- c. Metaphor
- d. Hyperbole

7RL4

3. What word best replaces the word frightened in the sentence below?

"It was almost December, and Jonas was beginning to be frightened."

- a. Upset
- b. Apprehensive
- c. Fascinated
- d. Distraught

**Standard: ELAGSE7W1 a-e Argumentative Writing**

CR - 2-point question

In this section, you will read two passages about the ongoing debate about providing food to wild birds. What are the advantages and disadvantages of feeding the birds? You will answer two questions and then write an argumentative essay supporting either side of the debate in which you argue for or against feeding the wild birds.

Before you begin planning and writing, read these two passages:

1. Stop Feeding Wild Birds
2. For the Birds

As you read the passages, think about what details from the passages you might use in your argumentative essay. Read these two passages about the migration of birds and answer Example Items 4 through 5.

**Stop Feeding Wild Birds**

Many people believe that they can do their part to help wildlife by providing food for wild birds. They believe it helps the birds become healthier and stronger and ensures they have food during times of scarcity. Often, however, this isn't the case. In natural settings, birds feed on a wide variety of foods that nature provides for them and that satisfies all their nutritional requirements. At artificial feeding sites, many birds have been found to suffer from diseases and poor nutrition. The foods many people choose to feed birds, such as bread, crackers, and popcorn, are low in protein.

Natural food locations are scattered everywhere. Birds that have to look for food on their own can easily find it in places where they can eat in relative seclusion. At artificial feeding sites, however, the birds often have to compete. Artificial feeding attracts birds in large numbers and encourages them to linger at the sites, looking for handouts rather than following their natural migration paths south. Many birds are unable to compete because the competition is too high. Furthermore, the number of birds that remain near the feeders often exceeds the natural water supplies in the area. When birds change their migration patterns or stop migrating altogether, many of them may not survive the winter. If people stopped feeding them before the time they normally migrate, the birds would have a better chance of finding natural foods and following their companions to warmer climates.

Wild birds can become dependent on the handouts. When this happens, their behaviors change. Many become aggressive as they struggle to compete for their

share. Many lose their wariness of humans and, eventually, their wildness. In order to keep these creatures wild, people must stop feeding them. They can still visit sites where birds nest and enjoy these birds in their natural habitats, not in artificial ones.

### For the Birds

As you learn to enjoy the beauty of birdlife around your home, you may wish to improve the habitat in your yard so that more birds will visit your property. You can attract birds by placing bird feeders, nest boxes, and birdbaths in your backyard and by planting a variety of trees, shrubs, and flowers. These can provide good nesting sites, winter shelter, places to hide from predators, and natural food supplies that are available year-round.

It doesn't matter where you live—in an apartment, a townhouse, or a single-family dwelling in the city, suburbs, or country. Just stand still, and you'll hear them—wild birds. It is hard to imagine life without them.

Bird watching is one of the fastest growing forms of outdoor recreation in the country. Each year millions of people discover for the first time the joys of bird watching. It's easy to understand why. Birds are fun to watch. And you can watch them just about everywhere. The most convenient place to start is right in your own backyard. All it takes to get their attention is food or water, a place to build a nest, and appropriate vegetation.

When you want to attract a particular bird species and keep it returning to your backyard, what you do will be determined by where you live and the time of year. When the ground is covered with snow and ice, it's hard to resist tossing seed out the door. But it's healthier for the birds to get their handouts at a feeding station, rather than off the ground. You can start simply with a piece of scrap wood elevated a few inches above the ground. Add a few holes for drainage, and you've built a platform feeder. It won't be long before the birds find it. If too many birds at your feeder become a problem, you can control their numbers by putting out smaller amounts of seed or by using specialty seeds or restrictive feeders that will attract only certain species. If you fill your feeder only when it's empty, the birds will look for food elsewhere.

7RL4

4. Which is the BEST definition for the phrase *relative seclusion* as it is used in these sentences from "Stop Feeding Wild Birds"? Use context clues to help.

Natural food locations are scattered everywhere. Birds that have to look for food on their own can easily find it in places where they can eat in *relative seclusion*. At artificial feeding sites, however, the birds often have to compete.

- A. quiet
- B. shelter
- C. privacy
- D. isolation

7RI6

5. What is the purpose of each author in writing the articles?
- a. Persuade
  - b. Inform
  - c. Entertain
  - d. None of the above

---

ELAGSE7W1. (7-point question)

Now that you have read "Stop Feeding Wild Birds" and "For the Birds," create a plan for and write your argumentative essay.

### WRITING TASK

6. Review the claims on both sides. Choose a side, and then write an argumentative essay supporting either side of the debate. You will argue for or against feeding wild birds.

Now write your argumentative essay. Be sure to use the ACE method or Yes Ma'Am!

---

---

---

---



to observation; but whatever he did was so exactly the same thing that he had always done before, that the wits of the curious were fairly puzzled.

Had he travelled? It was likely, for no one seemed to know the world more familiarly; there was no spot so secluded that he did not appear to have an intimate acquaintance with it. He often corrected, with a few clear words, the thousand conjectures advanced by members of the club as to lost and unheard-of travelers, pointing out the true probabilities, and seeming as if gifted with a sort of second sight, so often did events justify his predictions. He must have travelled everywhere, at least in the spirit. . . .

Phileas Fogg was not known to have either wife or children, which may happen to the most honest people; either relatives or near friends, which is certainly more unusual. He lived alone in his house in Saville Row, whither none penetrated. A single domestic sufficed to serve him. He breakfasted and dined at the club, at hours mathematically fixed, in the same room, at the same table, never taking his meals with other members, much less bringing a guest with him; and went home at exactly midnight, only to retire at once to bed. . . . When he chose to take a walk it was with a regular step in the entrance hall with its mosaic flooring, or in the circular gallery. . . . When he breakfasted or dined all the resources of the club—its kitchens and pantries, its buttery and dairy—aided to crowd his table . . . he was served by the gravest waiters, in dress coats, and shoes with swan-skin soles . . . and on the finest linen; . . . while his beverages were refreshingly cooled with ice, brought at great cost from the American lakes. . .

7RL7.2

**7. Which of these BEST describes the theme of the passage?**

- A. A worldly but private man avoids dining out in public.
- B. A worldly but private man is difficult to get to know.
- C. A worldly but private man boasts of his wide travels.
- D. A worldly but private man is hiding a terrible secret.

7RL7.3

**8. What is the MOST LIKELY reason that Phileas Fogg spends so much time alone?**

- A. He is afraid of being asked for money.
- B. He has little respect for his acquaintances.
- C. He feels very insecure about his appearance.
- D. He prefers his own company to that of others.



7RL4

12. Based on the word parts and context clues, what is the meaning of universal in the sentence?

They want to know why some stories *receive* universal acceptance, and others do not.

- A. possible
- B. regular
- C. common
- D. serious

Use the poem below to answer questions 13 - 20.

### Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

BY ROBERT FROST

Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.



7RL5

**13. How many stanzas are in the poem?**

- a. two
- b. three
- c. four
- d. five

7RL6

**14. From what point of view is the poem written?**

- a. first person
- b. second person
- c. third person limited
- d. third person omniscient

7RL2

**15. What is the central idea of the poem?**

- a. happiness
- b. fulfill promises
- c. anger
- d. thrilled

7RL4

**16. What is the rhyme scheme in stanza 1?**

- a. ABCD
- b. ABAB
- c. ABBA
- d. AABA

7L5

**17. What figurative language is used in stanza 3?**

- a. onomatopoeia
- b. hyperbole
- c. personification
- d. simile

7L5

**18. What figurative language is used in the last two lines?**

- a. alliteration
- b. personification
- c. hyperbole
- d. metaphor

7RL3

**19. What kind of mood does the author create by the phrase: "The darkest evening of the year"?**

- a. dark and gloomy
- b. quiet and reflective
- c. lonely and mad
- d. none of the above

7 RL1

**20. Why does the horse think "it queer" that the author is stopping in the snow?**

- a. They have "miles to go before I sleep."
- b. "The woods are lovely, dark, and deep."
- c. They are "between the woods and frozen lake."
- d. "To ask if there is some mistake."