

Name: _____

Date: _____

6B- _____

Writing: ELA Practice Paired

Reading:

Demosthenes + Icarus and Daedalus

Directions: USE PENCIL. To help you prepare for the ELA, read the following passages. Then, on the space provided, answer the short answer questions and the extended response (essay) question that follows.

Short Answer Questions:

- Short answer questions should be approximately three (3) sentences in length. Write a main idea followed by details. (Use transitions for details.)
- You will not earn full credit unless you answer ALL parts of the question, providing text-based details as needed.

Extended Response (Essay) Question:

- For the essay, you should use the planning page to make a quick outline and, if necessary, to write notes to yourself.

Paired Reading Passages

Demosthenes

by John Haaren

excerpted from Famous Men of Greece

In the city of Athens about twenty-five years after the Peloponnesian War there lived a delicate boy named Demosthenes. His father was a manufacturer of swords and made a great deal of money. But when Demosthenes was only seven years old his father died. Guardians had charge of his property for ten years. They
5 robbed the boy of part of his fortune and managed the rest so badly that Demosthenes could not go to school to the best teachers in Athens because he had not money enough to pay them.

One day, when he was sixteen years old, a great trial was going on at Athens and he strolled into the court. There were fifteen hundred and one dicasts, or, as we
10 call them, jurymen, in their seats, and the court was crowded with citizens who, like Demosthenes, had gone in from curiosity. A lawyer named Callistratus was speaking. He did not finish his speech for nearly four hours. But no one left the court until he ceased to speak. Then hundreds of people went out and hurried home. Demosthenes waited to see the end. When each of the jurymen had thrown a voting
15 pebble into a basket the clerk of the court counted the pebbles and told the result. Callistratus had won the case.

Demosthenes went home determined to become a lawyer and public speaker. In one year from that time he brought suit against his guardians, delivered four orations against them and won his case. He recovered a large part of the

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20 property which his father had left to his mother and himself.

After this he entered public life, but the first time he made a speech in the public assembly it was a complete failure. He stammered and could not speak loud enough, and in trying to do so he made odd faces.

25 People laughed at him, and even his friends told him that he never could be a speaker, so he went home greatly cast down.

Then an actor who was a great friend of his family went to see him and encouraged him. He asked Demosthenes to read to him some passages of poetry. Then the actor recited the same passages. The verses now seemed to have new meaning and beauty. The actor pronounced the words as if he felt them. The tones of
30 his voice were clear and pleasant and his gestures were graceful. Demosthenes was charmed.

"You can learn to speak just as well as I do," said the actor, "if you are willing to work patiently. Do not be discouraged, but conquer your difficulties."

"I will," said Demosthenes. And he did.

35 It is said that to improve his voice he spoke with stones in his mouth, and to become accustomed to the noise amid confusion of the public assembly he went to the seashore and recited there amid the roar of the waves. To overcome his habit of lifting one shoulder above the other he suspended a sword so that the point would prick his shoulder as he raised it.

40 He built an underground room in which he could study without interruption and practice speaking without disturbing anyone. He had one side of his head shaved so that he would be ashamed to leave this retreat. Then he remained there for months at a time engaged in study. One thing that he did while there was to copy eight times the speeches in the famous history of Thucydides. This was to teach him
45 to use the most fitting language. Besides all this he took lessons of an excellent speaker named Iosm'us who taught declamation. In this way the awkward boy who had been laughed out of the assembly became in time the greatest orator of Athens. Not only was Demosthenes a graceful orator, but he was wise and patriotic. He soon acquired great influence in Athens and became one of the ten official orators.

Icarus and Daedalus

by Josephine Preston Peabody

Among all those mortals who grew so wise that they learned the secrets of the gods, none was more cunning than Daedalus.

He once built, for King Minos of Crete, a wonderful Labyrinth of winding ways so cunningly tangled up and twisted around that, once inside, you could never

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5 find your way out again without a magic clue. But the king's favor veered with the wind, and one day he had his master architect imprisoned in a tower. Daedalus managed to escape from his cell; but it seemed impossible to leave the island, since every ship that came or went was well guarded by order of the king.

At length, watching the sea-gulls in the air—the only creatures that were
10 sure of liberty—he thought of a plan for himself and his young son Icarus, who was captive with him.

Little by little, he gathered a store of feathers great and small. He fastened these together with thread, molded them in with wax, and so fashioned two great wings like those of a bird. When they were done, Daedalus fitted them to his own
15 shoulders, and after one or two efforts, he found that by waving his arms he could **winnow (to blow or fan)** the air and **cleave (slice through)** it, as a swimmer does the sea. He held himself aloft, wavered this way and that, with the wind, and at last, like a great fledgling, he learned to fly.

Without delay, he fell to work on a pair of wings for the boy Icarus, and
20 taught him carefully how to use them, bidding him beware of rash adventures among the stars. "Remember," said the father, "never to fly very low or very high, for the fogs about the earth would weigh you down, but the blaze of the sun will surely melt your feathers apart if you go too near."

For Icarus, these cautions went in at one ear and out by the other. Who could
25 remember to be careful when he was to fly for the first time? Are birds careful? Not they! And not an idea remained in the boy's head but the one joy of escape.

The day came, and the fair wind that was to set them free. The father bird put on his wings, and, while the light urged them to be gone, he waited to see that all was well with Icarus, for the two could not fly hand in hand. Up they rose, the boy
30 after his father. The hateful ground of Crete sank beneath them; and the country folk, who caught a glimpse of them when they were high above the tree-tops, took it for a vision of the gods—Apollo, perhaps, with Cupid after him.

At first there was a terror in the joy. The wide vacancy of the air dazed them—a glance downward made their brains reel. But when a great wind filled their
35 wings, and Icarus felt himself sustained, like a halcyon-bird in the hollow of a wave, like a child uplifted by his mother, he forgot everything in the world but joy. He forgot Crete and the other islands that he had passed over: he saw but vaguely that winged thing in the distance before him that was his father Daedalus. He longed for one **draught (gust, current of air)** of flight to quench the thirst of his captivity:
40 he stretched out his arms to the sky and made towards the highest heavens.

Alas for him! Warmer and warmer grew the air. Those arms, that had seemed to uphold him, relaxed. His wings wavered, drooped. He fluttered his young hands vainly—he was falling—and in that terror he remembered. The heat of the sun had melted the wax from his wings; the feathers were falling, one by one, like

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45 snowflakes; and there was none to help.

He fell like a leaf tossed down the wind, down, down, with one cry that overtook Daedalus far away. When he returned, and sought high and low for the poor boy, he saw nothing but the bird-like feathers afloat on the water, and he knew that Icarus was drowned.

50 The nearest island he named Icaria, in memory of the child; but he, in heavy grief, went to the temple of Apollo in Sicily, and there hung up his wings as an offering. Never again did he attempt to fly.

Words that could be defined for students are in bold.

Short Answer Constructed Responses for “Demosthenes”

1. How does Demosthenes’ experience observing a trial at age 16 affect his life choices, as described in the passage? Use **two** details from the passage to support your response.

Write your answer in complete sentences.

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2. How does Demosthenes overcome obstacles to reach his goal? Use **two** details from the passage to support your response.

Write your answer in complete sentences.

Short Answer Constructed Response for “Icarus and Daedalus”

3. Closely reread the following sentence from lines 7–8 of the passage:

“...but it seemed impossible to leave the island, since every ship that came or went was well guarded by order of the king.”

How does this sentence contribute to the development of the plot of the passage? Use **two** details from the passage to support your answer.

Write your answer in complete sentences.

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Extended Constructed Response (Essay) for Paired Passages

4. In both the *Demosthenes* biography and the *Icarus and Daedalus* myth, the main characters exhibit determination in pursuit of their goals. Did determination help both main characters reach their goals, or did it lead them to tragedy? Write an argument for whether you believe determination helped or hurt the two main characters.

In your response, be sure to do the following: [Check boxes afterward...]

- ☐ describe how determination affected the outcome in *Demosthenes*;
- ☐ describe how determination affected the outcome in *Icarus and Daedalus*;
- ☐ explain the similarities or differences that exist in the ways determination played into the outcome of both texts;
- ☐ use details from both passages in your response.

Planning for Essay

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Write essay on the space provided below.

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8

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Carefully re-read your essay. Check the boxes in the question (p. 6). Edit and revise as needed.