

ZB **Zaner-Bloser**
NEXT GENERATION ASSESSMENT PRACTICE
English Language Arts / Literacy

Student Edition

Grade 2
Opinion

Name _____

Date _____

PART I: Close Reading**Your Task**

You will view two sources about the importance of working together. Then you will answer two questions about what you have learned. Later, in Part 2, you will write an essay giving your opinion about whether you should share with those who don't work well with others.

Steps to Follow

In order to plan and write your essay, you will do all of the following:

1. View two sources.
2. Make notes about the information from the sources.
3. Answer two questions about the sources.

Directions for Beginning

You will have 55 minutes to complete Part I. You will now view two sources. Take notes because you may want to refer to your notes while writing your essay. You can review any of the sources as often as you like. Answer the questions in the spaces provided after them.

“The Ants and the Grasshopper”

One bright day in late autumn a family of Ants were bustling about in the warm sunshine, drying out the grain they had stored up during the summer, when a starving Grasshopper, his fiddle under his arm, came up and humbly begged for a bite to eat.

"What!" cried the Ants in surprise, "haven't you stored anything away for the winter? What in the world were you doing all last summer?"

"I didn't have time to store up any food," whined the Grasshopper; "I was so busy making

music that before I knew it the summer was gone."

The Ants shrugged their shoulders in disgust.

"Making music, were you?" they cried. "Very well; now dance!" And they turned their backs on the Grasshopper and went on with their work.

From *The Aesop for Children* by Aesop. Copyright © 1919.
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What is the lesson or moral of this story? Give three details from the story to support your answer.

“The Squirrel and the Crow”

Once upon a time a crow and a squirrel owned a field. They agreed to work the field together. The crow built his nest in a tree near the field. The squirrel made her home in the trunk of the same tree.

One day the squirrel called out to the crow, “Come, Brother Crow. It’s time to plow the field.” The crow was lazy. He stretched his left wing and his left leg, then said:

“Sister dear, do go ahead.

I will follow soon.

I’ll eat this piece of buttered bread

And be with you by noon.”

The squirrel plowed the field all day. Meanwhile, the crow enjoyed the cool breeze that blew through the tree.

A few days later, the squirrel called out to the crow, “Come, Brother Crow. It is time to plant the seeds.” The crow opened one eye and said:

“Sister dear, do go ahead.

I will follow soon.

I’ll eat this piece of buttered bread

And be with you by noon.”

The little squirrel planted seeds all by herself while the crow lay back watching the clouds.

Rain fell, and before long all the seeds had sprouted.

The squirrel called out to the crow once again. “Come, Brother Crow. It is time to hoe the weeds.”

The crow slowly stretched his right wing and his right leg, then yawned.

“Sister dear, do go ahead.

I will follow soon.

I’ll eat this piece of buttered bread

And be with you by noon.”

The squirrel chopped down the weeds by herself.

The days passed. The sun shone brightly and helped the little plants grow big and strong. Before long every stalk had fat ears of wheat.

Continued 

“Come, Brother Crow,” called the squirrel. “It’s time to harvest the grain.” The crow settled himself in his nest, then said as usual:

“Sister dear, do go ahead.

I will follow soon.

I’ll eat this piece of buttered bread

And be with you by noon.”

The squirrel cut down the wheat. Then she separated the grains of wheat from the stems and husks. Soon there were piles of golden grain waiting to be put into sacks.

The squirrel mopped her brow with her bushy tail and called to the crow, “Come, Brother Crow, help me load the grain onto the cart and take it to the market.”

The crow scratched his head with his foot, then answered:

“Sister dear, do go ahead.

I will follow soon.

I’ll eat this piece of buttered bread

And be with you by noon.”

The squirrel took the grain to the market. It was very good grain, and she sold it for a very good price.

She came home with a big silken bag jingling with money. The crow heard the sound of the money and sat up.

“Come, Sister Squirrel,” he called greedily. “Let us count and divide the money so I can take my share.”

The little squirrel dropped the bag into her nest and turned to the crow. Smiling her sweetest smile, she said:

“Brother Crow, there is no share

For lazy birds like you.

When all your buttered bread is gone,

You’ll wish you had worked, too.”

The squirrel flicked her tail and vanished into her nest. The crow sat on his branch feeling very silly.

"The Squirrel and the Crow" by Reena I. Puri. Copyright ©2005 by Highlights for Children, Inc., Columbus, Ohio.

When do the characters speak in rhyme in the story? What do the rhymes tell you about how the squirrel and crow work together? Provide three details from the story to support your answer.

PART 2: Writing to Multiple Sources

You will now have 70 minutes to review your notes and sources, plan, draft, and revise your essay. You may use your notes and refer to the sources. You may also refer to the answers you wrote to questions in Part I, but you cannot change those answers. Now read your assignment and the information about how your essay will be scored; then begin your work.

Your Assignment

Think about the two types of characters in the stories, the lazy grasshopper and crow, and the hardworking ants and squirrel. The lazy characters want something they have not worked for. The hardworking characters don't want to share with someone who did not help with the work. Were the ants and the squirrel right not to share when the grasshopper and the crow realized their mistakes? Should the ants and the squirrel have shared, even though they didn't have to? Your assignment is to write an essay about the importance of working together. Do you think it is important or not? State your opinion and then support your position with information from the sources you have viewed. The audience for your essay will be your best friends.

Essay Scoring

Your essay will be scored on the following criteria:

Continued 

Essay Scoring (continued)

1. **Statement of purpose / focus and organization**—How well did you clearly state your opinion on the topic? How well did you use linking words to connect reasons to your opinion?
2. **Elaboration of evidence**—How well did you provide reasons from the sources to support your opinion? How well did you express ideas to your audience?
3. **Conventions**—Did you check your punctuation, capitalization, and spelling?

Now begin work on your essay. Manage your time carefully so that you can

- plan your essay
- write your essay
- revise and edit for a final draft

Spell check is available to you.

Type your response in the space provided on the following page. Write as much as you need to fulfill the requirements of the task; you are not limited by the size of the response area on the screen.

Type your response below.



Go to the next
page if you need
more space.



Continue your response below.

