

Paired Passages on an ELA Exam

What are paired passages?

- ❖ Paired passages are two passages that are placed together because they have something in common. They may have a similar setting, character, conflict, theme, or topic.
- ❖ Paired passages can be a combination of **any** genre and **any** form. They often include one nonfiction selection that is paired with one fictional selection.

Some Examples:

- news article and short story
- poem and memoir
- drama and interview
- fable and letter

This is being graded!

It counts as a test in quarter 3!

MARGIN NOTES COUNT!

What will I have to do?

- ❖ First, you will be asked to read the passages. Then you will have to answer questions about them individually and together.

Types of Questions:

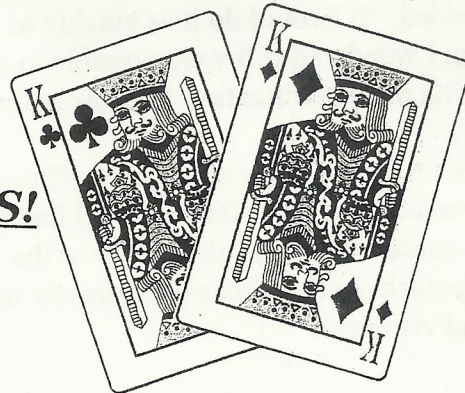
- multiple choice
- graphic organizers (may be included)
- short response
- extended response/essay

YOU MUST TAKE MARGIN NOTES!

Name: _____

Date: _____

Team: _____



Directions: Read the following selection and answer the questions that follow.

TAKE MARGIN NOTES

Nellie Bly: Trailblazer

Paragraph #

Introduction: by D. Curran

1 On November 14, 1889, twenty-four year old *New York World* investigative journalist, Nellie Bly, set off on a quest to circle the globe in 79 days, in an attempt to beat the fictional record set by a Jules Verne character from the novel *Around the World in 80 Days*. Bly's trip would captivate audiences on every continent for months, as people scrambled to read the latest reports of her bold journey. No one had ever before attempted such an ambitious feat, let alone an unchaperoned female. Travelling alone was considered daring, as well as dangerous.

Bly would go on to succeed with flying colors, besting both the fictional record and her own goal. She became an international star and a shining example of what women could accomplish if given the opportunity.

3 In 1890, Bly wrote a book about the journey. In this excerpt from the first chapter, Bly explains how she came up with the idea for the trip.

Around the World in Seventy-Two Days

by Nellie Bly

Chapter I

A Proposal to Girdle the Earth

4 WHAT gave me the idea?

5 It is sometimes difficult to tell exactly what gives birth to an idea. Ideas are the chief stock in trade of newspaper writers and generally they are the scarcest stock in market, but they do come occasionally.

6 This idea came to me one Sunday. I had spent a greater part of the day and half the night vainly trying to fasten on some idea for a newspaper article. It was my custom to think up ideas on Sunday and lay them before my editor for his approval or disapproval on Monday. But ideas did not come that day and three o'clock in the morning found me weary and with an aching head tossing about in my bed. At last tired and provoked at my slowness in finding a subject, something for the week's work, I thought fretfully:

"I wish I was at the other end of the earth!"

"And why not?" the thought came: "I need a vacation; why not take a trip around the world?"

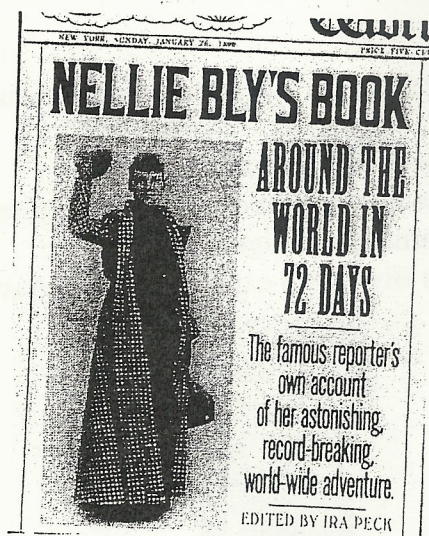
It is easy to see how one thought followed another. The idea of a trip around the world pleased me and I added: "If I could do it as quickly as Phileas Fogg did, I should go."

10 Then I wondered if it were possible to do the trip eighty days and afterwards I went easily off to sleep with the determination to know before I saw my bed again if Phileas Fogg's record could be broken.

I went to a steamship company's office that day and made a selection of time tables. Anxiously I sat down and went over them and if I had found the elixir of life I should not have felt better than I did when I conceived a hope that a tour of the world might be made in even less than eighty days.

12 I approached my editor rather timidly on the subject. I was afraid that he would think the idea too wild and visionary.

- 13 "Have you any ideas?" he asked, as I sat down by his desk.
"One," I answered quietly.
He sat toying with his pens, waiting for me to continue, so I blurted out:
"I want to go around the world!"
"Well?" he said, inquiringly, looking up with a faint smile in his kind eyes.
"I want to go around in eighty days or less. I think I can beat Phileas Fogg's record. May I try it?"
- 19 To my dismay, he told me that in the office they had thought of this same idea before and the intention was to send a man. However, he offered me the consolation that he would *favor* my going, and then we went to talk with the business manager about it.
- 20 "It is impossible for you to do it," was the terrible verdict. "In the first place you are a woman and would need a protector, and even if it were possible for you to travel alone you would need to carry so much baggage that it would detain you in making rapid changes. Besides you speak nothing but English, so there is no use talking about it; no one but a man can do this."
"Very well," I said angrily, "Start the man, and I'll start the same day for some other newspaper and beat him."
"I believe you would," he said slowly. I would not say that this had any influence on their decision, but I do know that before we parted I was made happy by the promise that if anyone was commissioned to make the trip, I should be that one.
- 23 After I had made my arrangements to go, other important projects for gathering news came up, and this rather visionary idea was put aside for a while.
One cold, wet evening, a year after this discussion, I received a little note asking me to come to the office at once. A summons, late in the afternoon, was such an unusual thing to me that I was to be excused if I spent all my time on the way to the office wondering what I was to be scolded for.
- 25 I went in and sat down beside the editor waiting for him to speak. He looked up from the paper on which he was writing and asked quietly: "Can you start around the world day after tomorrow?"
"I can start this minute," I answered, quickly trying to stop the rapid beating of my heart.



This is the cover of the *New York World*, dated January 26, 1890.

Passage 1

Directions: Use *Nellie Bly: Trailblazer* and *Around the World in Seventy-Two Days* to answer the following questions.

1. What is the purpose of the introduction?
 - A. It gives the reader background information necessary to understanding the situation.
 - B. It gets the reader interested in Jules Verne's *Around the World in 80 Days*
 - C. It explains all of the reasons Bly became so famous.
 - D. It emphasizes the dangers involved in Bly's journey.
2. Which statement best reflects the central idea of the book excerpt?
 - A. Boredom can lead to wonderful ideas.
 - B. An investigative journalist wants to write a book.
 - C. A 19th century woman is determined to accomplish a daring feat.
 - D. A newspaper reporter argues with her editor.
3. Which statement is not supported by the information in the book excerpt?
 - A. It is relatively simple for journalists to come up with creative ideas.
 - B. It is sometimes difficult to convince editors to agree with ideas.
 - C. Editors must approve of all ideas.
 - D. It is essential for investigative journalists to come up with original ideas.
4. As used in paragraph 19 of the passage, the word "favor" is closest in meaning to
 - A. help
 - B. support
 - C. kindness
 - D. sympathy
5. How does the information in paragraph 20 help to develop the chapter?
 - A. It describes the problems involved in making the trip.
 - B. It reflects the way society thought of women during that time in history.
 - C. It explains the benefits of learning a foreign language.
 - D. It emphasizes the difficulties Bly would experience while traveling.



Directions: Read the following selection and answer the questions that follow.

I Wonder

Scandinavian Fairytale

Paragraph #

1 Once upon a time there was a man who fathered three sons: Peter, Paul, and Youngling. Youngling was an inquisitive boy, and he was teased by his older brothers because of it. The father was a man of humble means, and he told the lads that they must go out into the world and try to earn their bread, for he had nothing to offer them *save* the possibility of starving to death.

Near the man's cottage was the king's palace, and near the palace windows a great oak had sprung up. It was so stout and tall that it blocked the sunlight from reaching the castle. King George made it clear he would give untold treasure to the man who could fell the oak, but no one was able to succeed, for as soon as one branch was chopped off, two grew in its place.

3 King George also desired a well large enough to hold ample water. All of his neighbors had wells, and he resented not having one. So the king said he would give both money and material wealth to anyone who could dig him a well that would hold enough water for a whole year. Unfortunately, no one could accomplish this task, for the palace was high up on a hill, and they could only dig a few inches before they came upon rock.

Since the king had set his heart on having these two desires, he spread the word far and wide that any man who could chop down the tree and dig the well would win the princess's hand in marriage, in addition to half of the kingdom.

5 Many men came to try their luck; but all their hacking and hewing, all their digging and delving, were fruitless. The oak grew taller and stouter at every stroke, and the rock grew no softer.

One day the three brothers thought they'd set off to try their hand at winning the untold riches the king was promising. They had not gone far before they came to a steep hillside, and as they traveled uphill they heard something chopping and hacking way up on the hill amongst the trees.

7 "I wonder what is making that chopping sound," said Youngling.

"You think you are so clever with your wonderings," said Peter and Paul, both at once. "What a waste of precious time."

"Still, I'd like to see what it is," said Youngling, and up he went.

"Oh, you're such a child. Go ahead and look. Maybe you'll finally learn a lesson," cried out his brothers.

11 But Youngling didn't care what they said; he climbed the steep hillside toward the sound, and when he reached it, he beheld the strangest sight. It was an axe, chopping away at the trunk of a fir tree, all of its own accord. "Good day," said Youngling. "So you chop the tree all by yourself, do you?"

"Yes, I've done this a long, long time, patiently waiting for you, my lad," said Axe.

"Well, here I am at last," said Youngling, taking the axe, and placing it in his bag.

- 14 When he climbed down again to his brothers, they began to jeer and laugh at him. "And now, what funny thing was it you saw up yonder on the hillside?" they asked. "Oh, it was only an axe we heard," said Youngling.
- When they had traveled a bit farther, they came under a steep spur of rock, and from up above they heard something digging and shoveling.
- "I wonder, now," said Youngling, "what it is digging and shoveling up yonder at the top of the rock?"
- "Ah, you're always so clever with your wonderings," said Peter and Paul again. "It's as if you'd never heard a woodpecker hacking and pecking at a hollow tree."
- "Well, well," said Youngling, "I think it would be amusing to see what it really is."
- 21 So off he set to climb the rock, while his brothers mocked him. But he didn't care; up he clambered, and when he got near the top he saw a lone spade there, digging and delving.
- "Good day," said Youngling. "So you stand here all alone, and dig and delve?"
- "Yes, that's what I do," said Spade, "and that's what I've done for many days, patiently waiting for you, my lad."
- "Well, here I am," said Youngling, as he placed the spade in his sack.
- "Well, what was it, so strange and rare," asked Peter and Paul, "that you saw up there at the top of the rock?"
- "Oh," said Youngling, "nothing more than a dirty spade; that was what we heard."
- 27 So they began walking again, until they came to a bubbling brook, running down the hillside. They were thirsty, so they lay down beside the brook to have a drink.
- "I have a great fancy to see where this brook comes from," said Youngling.
- He hiked up alongside the stream, in spite of the insults that his brothers shouted after him. And as he walked up the hillside, the brook narrowed, until at last he saw its source, a tiny walnut, from which the water trickled.
- 30 "Good day," said Youngling again. "So you lie here all alone and trickle pure, cold water?"
- "I certainly do," said Walnut, "and here have I trickled for many long days, patiently waiting for you, my lad."
- "Well, here I am," said Youngling, as he took a lump of moss and plugged up the hole, so that the water wouldn't run out. Then he put the walnut in his sack, and ran down to his brothers.
- "Well, now," said Peter and Paul, as they chuckled at their brother's expense, "have you found out where the water comes from? A rare sight it must have been!"
- 34 "Yes indeed!" said Youngling, as his brothers laughed and made a mockery of him yet again. However, Youngling didn't mind a bit.
- When they had gone a little farther, they came to the King's palace. Since every man in the kingdom had heard that he might win the princess and half the realm, many had come to try their luck. As a result, the oak was twice as stout and big as it had been at first, for two branches grew for every one they hewed out with their axes.
- 36 King George was so frustrated that he issued a decree that anyone who tried to chop the tree and failed would have their ears chopped off and be banished to a barren island. Peter and Paul didn't let themselves be frightened by this threat; they were quite confident they could fell the oak. Peter, as he was the eldest, was to try his hand first; but like every man before him, two branches grew for each one he cut. So the King's men seized him, clipped off both his ears, and put him out on the island.
- 37 Now Paul was to try his luck, but he fared just the same as his brother! When he had hewn two or three strokes, spectators watched the oak grow. Wasting no time, the king's men seized him, clipped his ears, and put him out on the island. In fact, they clipped his ears even closer, because they said he should have learned a lesson from his brother.

38 Now Youngling was to try.

"If you want to look like a marked sheep, we're quite ready to clip your ears at once, so you'll save yourself some trouble," said the king, for he was angry with him for his brothers' sake.

"Well, I'd like to try first," said Youngling, as he took Axe out of his sack.

"Hew away!" said he to his axe, and away it hewed, making the chips fly again, so that it wasn't long before the oak came down

When that was done, Youngling pulled out Spade and commanded, "Dig away!" The spade began to dig and delve till the earth and rock flew out in splinters and the well was deep.

43 Youngling then took out Walnut, laid it in one corner of the well and pulled the plug of moss out.

"Trickle and run," said Youngling. So the nut trickled and ran till the water gushed out of the hole in a stream, and in a short time the well was brimming with water.

Since Youngling had felled the oak which shaded the King's palace, and dug a well in the palace-yard, he earned the right to marry the princess (who was quite lovely and sweet) and half the kingdom, as King George had promised.

46 It was fortunate for Peter and Paul that they had lost their ears, or else they might have grown weary of hearing the awed villagers say: "Youngling wasn't really wasting his time when he took to wondering all of the time."



Passage 2

Directions: Use *I Wonder* to answer the following questions.

- 6 Which line from the selection best reflects the central idea of the passage?
- A. "Youngling was a curious boy, and he was teased by his older brothers because of it." (¶ 1)
 - B. "King George also desired a well large enough to hold ample water." (¶ 3)
 - C. "'Yes indeed!' said Youngling, as his brothers laughed and made a mockery of him yet again. However, Youngling didn't mind a bit." (¶ 35)
 - D. "Youngling wasn't really wasting his time when he took to wondering all the time." (¶ 47)

- 7 The 2nd paragraph contains this sentence:

King George made it clear he would give untold treasures to the man who could fell the oak, but no one was able to succeed, for as soon as one branch was chopped off, two grew in its place.

How does this information help develop the plot?

- A. It helps the reader understand King George's personality traits.
- B. It establishes the conflicts involved in completing the task.
- C. It explains the setting of the story.
- D. It describes the extraordinary wealth of the king.



- 8 What is the meaning of *save* as used in paragraph 1?

...for he had nothing to offer them save the possibility of starving to death.

- A. set aside
- B. protect
- C. rescue
- D. with the exception of

- 9 Throughout the story, Youngling's brothers mock him, yet he doesn't get upset. Why is it repeated that he "does not care" that his brothers laugh at him?

- A. to show that deep down Youngling is seeking his brothers' approval
- B. to show that Peter and Paul are humorous
- C. to show that Youngling is confident in himself, despite his brothers' opinion of him
- D. to show that Youngling doesn't realize they are mocking him

- 10 What is ironic about the events portrayed in the story?

- A. The inanimate objects can speak.
- B. Readers possess information that none of the characters have.
- C. The king is willing to marry his daughter off to a stranger.
- D. Peter and Paul laugh at Youngling, yet it is Youngling who ends up with untold riches.