Grade 6 ELA Aspire (CoS) Quiz

- Reading Literature: (RL.6.1) Textual Evidence, (RL.6.2) Determine A Theme, (RL.6.3) Plot, (RL.6.6) Point Of View
- Reading: Informational Text: (RI.6.1) Textual Evidence, (RI.6.2) Central Idea, (RI.6.3) Analyze Detail, (RI.6.6) Point Of View, (RI.6.9) Compare And Contrast
- Writing: (W.6.1) Introduce Claim, (W.6.1b) Support Claims

Student Name: __________________________

Teacher Name: Melanie Thomas

Date: __________

Score: __________
The River Thames
Roberto Barerra

1. Rivers have played an important role in human history. Since ancient times, towns, cities, and entire civilizations have thrived around rivers, which provide people with many of life's necessities. One such river, the River Thames, has been instrumental in the founding and development of London.

2. The River Thames stretches 215 miles across southern England. More than eighty islands are scattered throughout its length. The Thames runs right through the center of London. This made the river essential to the growth and success of both London and the United Kingdom.

3. Having the Thames flow through the city allowed trade ships from around the world to come and go with ease, making London the major transportation hub of England for centuries. The amount of money brought in by both national and international trade made London one of the major commerce centers of Europe.

4. While the Thames is important to many businesses, it also affects the daily lives of the city's seven million citizens. Over the years, the river has provided London's people with food, drinking water, transportation, and a place to relax. For centuries, artists like Claude Monet, Charles Dickens, and Edmund Spenser have looked to the Thames for inspiration. These men used the river as a central figure in several of their works. In addition, some of the most well-known national symbols of the United Kingdom are located on the river's banks. Historic sites like Big Ben, the Palace of Westminster, the London Eye, and the Tower Bridge are all located near the Thames.

5. The River Thames has played a significant role in military operations throughout the country's history. In ancient times, the Romans set their sights on expanding their empire by using the navigable waters of the Thames to invade the British Isles. From the sea, they could easily enter the mouth of the river and move inward. After a failed attempt at defeating the British tribes the year before, Julius Cesar broke through their defenses along the River Thames in 54 B.C. Although the British fought against the Romans nearly a century later, Roman forces remained in England until the fall of the empire.

6. The Thames was vital to the defense of Great Britain during World War II. In 1940, the German Air Force started bombing London. German pilots followed the river up into the center of the city, where they dropped their bombs. The first attack destroyed almost all of the docks in London's port and killed hundreds. The British also used the Thames to help defend their city. Water was pumped out of the Thames to put out fires started by the bombs and volunteers patrolled the river to ensure that the German ships didn't enter the Port of London. Supplies and troops often traveled up and down the Thames when bombings obstructed the roads.

7. Over the years, the river has been the source of a number of problems. In the nineteenth century, Londoners dumped waste from their homes into the Thames. This made the water so smelly that the House of Commons had to relocate for a time. The pollution of the river also contributed to an outbreak of disease that killed many people and to the disappearance of most of the river's fish. Luckily, various clean-up efforts during the twentieth century have greatly improved the river's water quality and allowed fish to return. Flooding is another concern. In 1928, a major flood killed fourteen people and left many citizens homeless. Events like this led to the creation of the Thames Barrier, a moveable flood barrier that helps stop floodwaters from reaching central London.

8. Though people no longer rely on the Thames as the only way to get around, the river is still important to many Londoners. These few examples represent only a small number of ways in which the Thames has affected London over the years. If not for the Thames, the world as we know it would be a very different place.

1) What is the MOST LIKELY reason many civilizations developed around rivers?

A) People could dispose of their wastes in rivers.
B) Rivers offered people a way to defend their cities.
C) Many businesses used rivers to import and export goods.
D) The river provided people with water, food, and transportation.
2) What would MOST LIKELY happen if Londoners started putting household waste in the Thames again?
A) The city's residents would move away.  
B) The House of Commons would close.  
C) The water would become polluted.  
D) The river would flood.

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**So You Want to be a Teacher?**

Dennis Tyler

I. Introduction:

A. One question I'm often asked, by both students and parents, is "Why did you decide to become a teacher?" I wish I could figure out a simple answer to this seemingly simple question, but the truth is, I'm not quite sure myself. There are many reasons why teaching is a great choice for a profession, but there are also many reasons why this job is not for everyone. If you are seriously considering becoming a teacher for a career, then it's probably a good idea for you to consider some of the pros and cons of this particular job.

II. The Cons of Teaching:

A. Low Salaries:
Everyone knows—teachers do not make a great deal of money. Not only is teacher pay relatively low compared to other professions, it also does not get much better over time. A teacher who has been working twenty-five years doesn't make substantially more than a teacher who's only been in the profession for three years.

B. The Many Frustrations of Teaching:
1. Frustrations with Parents:
While parents can be a benefit and support in the classroom, they are also often a pain for a teacher—particularly if a parent makes many demands on a teacher's time with conferences, phone-calls, and e-mails pleading for special excuses for a child's lack of motivation. Some parents (again, to many new teachers' shock) can be belligerent or verbally abusive to teachers.

2. Frustrations with Students:
New teachers often begin their careers with visions of fantastic class projects and fruitful engaged discussions, only to discover that most of their students are either asleep or completely bored or disinterested by any area of knowledge. A new teacher often finds that reconciling his or her ideals with the reality of the trenches can be very painful indeed.

C. Where did your life go?
Someone once said, "Teaching is a job for nuns and priests," and what this person meant is that teaching is a job that consumes all of your life. Presumably, the job is perfect for nuns and priests who do not have familial obligations to distract them from giving of all their time. Because teaching doesn't end when the bell rings at 3 pm; often that's when clubs need sponsoring, sports need coaching, meetings need leading, and dances need chaperoning. It can seem endless. Teachers may find themselves looking a little more wrinkly and gray in the mirror much earlier than they expected. Teaching can age a person quite quickly.

III. The Pros of Teaching:

A. There's More to Life Than Your Salary:
While it is true that the pay is (and stays) relatively low, teachers usually don't starve. Being a teacher means having a modest and humble lifestyle, but not being impoverished. If nothing else, the pay is reliable; no one budgets better than teachers who get paid the same amount once a month and have to make that paycheck last right up to the next one. Besides, there are many other (non-monetary) compensations for the low pay.

B. The Many Benefits of Teaching:
1. Strong, Supportive Union and Collegiality
Teaching can be a lonely profession, trapped in a room day after day with everyone far younger than you, but in other ways teachers are not alone and very well-supported. Many states have powerful and influential teacher's unions that look after teachers' best interests. Also teachers often develop strong supportive friendships that make the burdens of the job weight a little lighter.

2. Those Famous "Summers Off" and Other Holidays
The benefit that everyone who is not a teacher knows about is the "summers off." While it is true that teachers do have a summer break, it gets shorter every year—and often teachers (to make up for their low pay) have to take other jobs while not in the classroom. Still, when you add up the number of days a teacher gets off per year and compare it with another job that only gets two days for Christmas, you realize teachers do have an embarrassment of riches for holidays.

C. Getting Paid in Personal Fulfillment:
If teaching does indeed make you prematurely gray, it also (paradoxically) keeps you feeling young at heart. Being surrounded by young people discovering life, love, and joy year after year can keep a teacher’s heart light—the type of lightness that makes up for the lightness of one’s pocketbook. Ask teachers about their most wonderful day on the job, and they are sure to tell you about the day one student told them thank you for making a difference in his or her life. No price tag or salary could ever equal to that kind of fulfillment.

IV. So What’s It Going to Be?

A. Ultimately no one can tell you whether or not teaching is the right fit for you. Only your own experience can answer that question. You just have to investigate the profession with wide-open eyes that see both teaching’s woes and its virtues. Do the pains of teaching outweigh the pleasures? Only you can decide.

3) Which statement BEST summarizes the entire article, "So You Want to be a Teacher"?

A) There are a lot of frustrating parts of the job of being a teacher.

B) Teachers don’t make a lot of money, but they do get other compensations.

C) Although some people like to emphasize the negative, teaching is actually a job in which the positives far outweigh the negatives.

D) The teaching profession has many advantages and many frustrations; whether or not you should become a teacher is ultimately up to you.
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (Chapter 1)
Mark Twain

"TOM!"
No answer.
"TOM!"
No answer.
"What's gone with that boy, I wonder? You TOM!"
No answer.

(2) The old lady pulled her spectacles down and looked over them about the room; then she put them up and looked out under them. She seldom or never looked through them for so small a thing as a boy; they were her state pair, the pride of her heart, and were built for "style," not service -- she could have seen through a pair of stove-lids just as well.

(3) She looked perplexed for a moment, and then said, not fiercely, but still loud enough for the furniture to hear: "Well, I lay if I get hold of you I’ll --"

(4) She did not finish, for by this time she was bending down and punching under the bed with the broom, and so she needed breath to punctuate the punches with. She resurrected nothing but the cat. "I never did see the beat of that boy!"

(5) She went to the open door and stood in it and looked out among the tomato vines and "jimpson" weeds that constituted the garden. No Tom. So she lifted up her voice at an angle calculated for distance and shouted: "Y-o-u-u Tom!"

(6) There was a slight noise behind her and she turned just in time to seize a small boy by the slack of his roundabout and arrest his flight.
"There! I might 'a thought of that closet. What you been doing in there?"
"Nothing."
"Nothing! Look at your hands. And look at your mouth. What IS that truck?"
"I don’t know, aunt."
"Well, I know. It’s jam—that’s what it is. Forty times I've said if you didn’t let that jam alone I’d skin you. Hand me that switch."
The switch hovered in the air—the peril was desperate--
"My! Look behind you, aunt!"

(7) The old lady whirled round, and snatched her skirts out of danger. The lad fled on the instant, scrambled up the high board-fence, and disappeared over it. His aunt Polly stood surprised a moment, and then broke into a gentle laugh.

(8) "Hang the boy, can’t I never learn anything? Ain’t he played me tricks enough like that for me to be looking out for him by this time? But old fools is the biggest fools there is. Can’t learn an old dog new tricks, as the saying is. (9) But my goodness, he never plays them alike, two days, and how is a body to know what’s coming? He ‘pears to know just how long he can torment me before I get my dander up, and he knows if he can make out to put me off for a minute or make me laugh, it’s all dowagain and I can’t hit him a lick. I ain’t doing my duty by that boy, and that’s the Lord’s truth, goodness knows. (10) Spare the rod and spoil the child, as the Good Book says. I’m a laying up sin and suffering for us both, I know. He’s full of the Old Scratch, but laws-a-me! he’s my own dead sister’s boy, poor thing, and I ain’t got the heart to lash him, somehow. (11) Every time I let him off, my conscience does hurt me so, and every time I hit him my old heart most breaks. Well-a-well, man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble, as the Scripture says, and I reckon it’s so. He’ll play hookey this evening, and I’ll just be obleeged to make him work, tomorrow, to punish him. (12) It’s mighty hard to make him work Saturdays, when all the boys is having holiday, but he hates work more than he hates anything else, and I’ve GOT to do some of my duty by him, or I’ll be the ruination of the child."

4) How does the author show that Tom is really a very clever boy?
   A) Tom hides in the closet to eat jam.
   B) Tom plays hookey but gets home before supper.
   C) Tom outsmarts Aunt Polly and escapes punishment.
   D) Tom lies to Aunt Polly about eating jam in the closet.
Levi grated lemon zest into the whipped cream cheese and jabbed his pinky in the sweet icing for a sample. He suspected his latest creation required powdered sugar, so he located the canister and sprinkled raw sugar into his concoction. His second taste test revealed that his lemon cream pies were developing perfectly. The recipe had appeared in a simpler form on a teen cooking Web site, but Levi contemplated the recipe for days before attempting it. When he was satisfied that he could make it unique with final touches like lemon zest, he proceeded to the kitchen.

After his family finished Levi’s supper—chicken and vegetable stir-fry—Levi placed a miniature pastry before each family member and enjoyed their praise. Levi knew that everyone loved having a creative chef in the family, especially one who volunteered for dinner duty almost every night of the week.

As his relatives dipped their spoons into the cool cream, Levi’s grandma spoke up about a flyer she’d noticed in the grocery store. A local gourmet restaurant sought student interns. Before Levi could add his thoughts on the opportunity, his family buzzed with excitement—they unanimously agreed that Levi was the perfect person for the job. Levi’s family wouldn’t let him neglect the chance to be a chef in an esteemed restaurant.

His sister drove him to the audition—an obstacle course of cooking tests to help the owners of the restaurant select an assistant. At the audition, the head chef explained that an intern’s job was to mimic the head chef’s menu—not to create a new one; therefore, the students must recreate the restaurant’s dishes to earn the job. Levi looked around at the other candidates. He didn’t know about them, but trying not to be creative would be difficult for him.

First, the potential chefs had to make an appetizer that consisted of a hardboiled egg drizzled with cheese and herbs. As soon as Levi smelled the finished dish, he knew some salsa would add kick, but he held back—he assembled the dish as the chef had ordered. Next, Levi prepared the main dish—zucchini pasta. Levi wanted to add sausage. His mother made this exact recipe, but with sausage, and it was Levi’s favorite meal; however, he held back again. This time he noticed that other applicants jazzed up their recipes, and the chef even complimented them on their creative takes!

When the chef explained the final dish, Levi created it just as the chef directed—a simple whipped cream with strawberries. Levi knew that adding lemon zest and sugar could make the cream phenomenal, but he prepared the dessert and sat silently while the chef tasted his dish. After the final taste test, the chef announced a bonus round where the candidates could create whatever dish they wanted.

"Now," chef said, "is your chance to be inventive."

Levi made the egg appetizer with salsa, the zucchini pasta with sausage, and the strawberries with lemon cream. When the chef arrived at Levi’s workstation, he smiled at the buffet of choices.

"Seems like you have innovative ideas about everything," the chef said.

Finally, the chef announced his decision.

"For knowing when to be creative and when to follow my lead, I nominate Levi for the position."

The rest of the owners’ comments were a blur. Levi had impressed the chef with his dishes and his creativity! He was on his way to becoming a real chef!

5) In this passage the author’s point of view allows the narrator to

A) tell the story more objectively.  
B) show what every character is thinking.  
C) maximize the emotional impact of the story.  
D) demonstrate the advantages of becoming a chef.
Journal Entry of Jerome Dunkin' Duncan
Mary O'Dell

Dear JD Journal,
I just figured out that life really is a journey. Lame, right? - but yesterday was the best day ever! I realized how far I have come, and how far I have to go. As far back as I can remember, I have always loved sports, especially basketball. It's just me and Pops now, since Mom died when I was eleven. Six years have passed and I hate that my memories of her are fading. She was so beautiful, with an easy smile and a kind heart. She was always ready with a proverb or clever phrase. Sometimes her voice still echoes in my mind:
"Jerome, the longest journey begins with a single step, so get moving—but remember to thank those who helped get you there."
I listen to more soothing words:
"Son, help others, not just yourself -that's why God put you on this earth."
Back then her quotes and happy little sayings would drive me crazy, but now they bring me comfort and somehow make me sad, too.
Pops and I used to spend hours watching basketball. It was our sacred time together, cheering the spectacular feats of Shaq and Kobe, or chiding the referees for questionable calls against our team. Our excited discussions often edged toward debates arguing who is better or who is best between the latest top NBA or college stars. Sure, watching was great, but I yearned to wear a uniform and use some of those signature moves I saw on ESPN highlight reels. Although I was athletic by nature, I knew it would still take lots of practice to transform myself into the agile superstar I dreamed of becoming. After Mom was gone, the cheering stopped. Pops and I were wrapped up in our own individual worlds of pain and loss. It was hard without Mom. I could not make myself imagine going through life without her. I took no steps toward basketball. Then I met Coach Moses and Ms. Willow.

Now, don't think I am exaggerating about yesterday. My ears are still ringing from the thunderous cheering of our Silver Fox fans. We closed our season with a two point defeat of our high school rivals, the Bulldogs. The game was a nail biter until the last minute. The sellout crowd was ecstatic and now I, Jerome Dunkin Duncan, am the hometown hero! The church parking lot was packed for the 5th Quarter Basketball Party, a local tradition. I was greeted like a king entering his majestic palace. Pops, Coach Moses, and Ms. Willow worked their way through the crowd.
"I'm proud of you, son," beamed Pops.
"You gave 110% out there," agreed Coach Moses. Ms. Willow simply smiled, handed me a sealed envelope, and hugged me. Pops assured me he would record the local news coverage of my no-look passes, dunks, steals, and fall-away three pointers. It had been a perfect evening. I was walking on air, but grew tired of the spotlight. I left the party and drove home. Pops would be in the den, probably asleep in his chair. I bolted upstairs, anxious to open the card from Ms. Willow AND check out my stellar performance. Then I flopped on the bed, and bent down to untie my size thirteens. I froze. I studied my shoes as if they just appeared on my feet. Pictures of shoes flashed in my thoughts. Suddenly, memories of my mother flooded my mind, her voice crowding out my former thoughts of glory and fame. Sure, I was successful, but I became acutely aware of the fact that I had help along the way. My steps had been guided by family and friends. I blinked the moisture from my eyes, grabbed the card and headed for the den. My abrupt entrance startled Pops almost as much as the bear hug he got from me.
"Thanks for all you've done for me. I love you," I stammered. I opened the envelope and a gift card fell out for Athlete's Footgear. The handwritten words were simple and familiar:
"The longest journey begins with a single step. What's next?
Love, Ms. Willow

Although we seldom spoke about it, that first year without Mom was the year Coach Moses and Ms. Willow, stepped into our lives. They were both from our church. Ms. Willow paid for my first summer basketball camp and bought my shoes every season. Coach took me home from practice during those middle school years. Pops always loved me and supported me. It was getting late, but I had two more things to do.

Like I said, life really is a journey. Look out tomorrow, here I come!

Sincerely,
Jerome Dunkin' Duncan
Silver Fox #11
6) You can tell from Jerome’s memories of his mother that
A) she was not interested in sports.
B) he doesn’t remember much about her at all.
C) she was a very sensitive and loving person.
D) he thought that her sayings were unnecessary.

Review of Sleeping Upside-Down
Lee Washington

1 A backyard fruit bat watches, "Swinging mallets! Spinning balls in a host of colors! A croquet set straight from the fairest of three-dollar garage sales." The bat, of course, has very poor eyesight. The bat tries to imagine happy backyard scenes through its blurry vision. Descriptions written by a bat only add to the appeal of Tim Ranch’s latest novel, Sleeping Upside-Down.

2 The human characters in the novel are just as captivating. The main human character, Kate Waterbee, is a typical thirteen-year-old. She is secretly angry with her parents because she is not allowed to have pets. Kate believes that "allergies would have at least evoked some sympathy. Unfortunately, her parents’ noses and eyes could handle a dog or a kitty. It was their worried minds that feared an animal whining at them all the time." While pleased with their mellow daughter, Kate’s parents feared adopting a needy, demanding pet.

3 The backyard bat becomes a perfect pet. Kate makes a bat box for it on the side of the tree. Her “sometimes-pet” as she calls it, starts to think highly of Kate and her family. The chapters from the bat’s point of view are especially interesting. The bat imagines Kate's days down to the smallest detail.

4 Ranch’s usual streak of silliness shown in his earlier novels takes a back seat in Sleeping Upside-Down. While the situations in the novel are very funny, the characters seem ordinary and sincere in their reactions. During rainstorms, for instance, the shift key on Kate’s keyboard becomes stuck. Her initial attempts to e-mail a cute boy in her class seem even more uncomfortable with the added emphasis: "WOULD YOU GET ICE CREAM WITH ME TOMORROW? I AM NOT YELLING." Ranch adds a hint of his strange humor to many of Kate’s everyday actions.

5 Accepting a backyard bat as a character may be abnormal for readers at first, but by the end of the novel, the stories of Kate and the bat blend together very well. The addition of the bat stops the novel from becoming charmingly predictable teen fiction. The story does not develop into a children’s tale of speaking animals. It instead shows two different points of view on Kate's life. Though the idea of chapters switching viewpoints seems dizzying, it is no more severe than a spin on a backyard swing.

6 Ranch’s novel shows great depth of character through Kate’s interactions with her parents and the bat. The bat wants to belong to Kate’s family just as she is trying to break from the comforts of home and make new friends. Like the bat in the backyard tree, Ranch maintains enough distance from his characters to avoid interfering with too many details. Ranch’s writing reveals a great love of people-watching. Without being too sweet or dramatic, Sleeping Upside-Down is a wonderful story worth exploring.

7) Based on paragraph 1 of the book review, what does the reviewer like about the book “Sleeping Upside Down”?
A) The reviewer likes the way the author was able to provide details from a bat’s point of view.
B) The reviewer likes the description of the fruit bat’s physical features given by the author.
C) The reviewer likes the way the author used realistic characters.
D) The reviewer likes the description of the habitat of fruit bats.
Dear Diary,

Today, my family and I are traveling home after our amazing summer vacation. For the past week, we have been visiting Niagara Falls in Canada. Since I didn’t have the time to write during our trip, I will tell you all about it now.

A little more than a week ago, my mother and father started packing our suitcases to prepare for our trip. My entire family woke up early Sunday morning, packed the car, and began our expedition to Niagara Falls. When we reached the American-Canadian border, I was excited to enter a foreign country for the first time.

When we arrived at our hotel, my family and I checked in and put our bags in our room. The hotel we stayed in was a grand, old building that was filled with many elaborate decorations. Later on, my younger brother Stevie and I wandered out onto the hotel balcony. From this location, we could see the top of Niagara Falls! The scene was so majestic that it looked like an illustration from a magazine. My sleep was fitful that night because I was so eager to visit the falls.

After breakfast the following morning, we decided to take our first trip to see the falls. When I first saw Niagara Falls up close, I was stunned in amazement. The falls are gigantic! They are truly one of the most magnificent natural sights in the world. The rest of my family was impressed by the splendid waterfall, too. My brother wanted to get even closer to the water, so he clambered up one of the embankments. Our parents, however, forced him to climb back down quickly—it’s not safe to get too close to the powerful water. In fact, the rushing water was strong enough that we could hear its roar from our hotel room each evening.

After our first day of visiting the falls, we had many other adventures in Canada. One day, we took a boat ride underneath Niagara Falls. While we rode on the boat, an employee told us some interesting facts about the falls. She said that the falls on the Canadian side of the border are about 160 feet tall in most places—that is taller than a ten-story building! In addition, the employee explained that many people throughout history have attempted to ride over the falls. Although this is against the law, some people have passed over the falls in barrels or other structures. Of course, this is an extremely dangerous practice, so you won’t catch me attempting this feat anytime soon!

After a long, yet adventurous week, I am actually happy to be returning home. We had a wonderful trip, but now I can show my grandparents the dozens of photographs I took during our vacation. Perhaps we could visit Niagara Falls again next year—after all, this was definitely the trip of a lifetime!

8) How would this diary entry differ from an autobiographical passage about the same event?

A) An autobiographical passage is not written in first person perspective.
B) There is no substantial difference between a diary entry and an autobiography.
C) A diary entry is more personal and isn’t meant to be read by a general audience.
D) Diary entries are usually written from a third-person point of view unlike this passage.

9) Which sentence makes a claim for an argument about why cats make good pets for elderly people?

A) Cats can stay indoors all the time and can be left alone overnight.
B) Cats sleep the majority of the day and enjoy cuddling with their owners.
C) Cats would be a wonderful pet for elderly people because they require minimal care.
D) Cats do not have to be taken for walks and do not have to be played with all the time.
10) If you were writing a letter about how children should be given more yard work chores to do, which sentence would be a good supporting reason for your argument?

A) By being outside more, children are less dependent on screens for entertainment and learn to value nature.
B) Bees, wasps, and ants from outside can cause lots of problems for children who have allergies to insect stings.
C) If it’s spring outside, then some children shouldn’t do yard work because of all the pollen allergens in the air.
D) Doing yard work, though, can be very dangerous if it is too hot outside and the children doing chores don’t drink enough water.

11) Select the pronoun that correctly completes this sentence:

Katherine wants to go into politics; she finds _____ so exciting.

A) it C) their
B) its D) them

Jackie Robinson - The Early Years

1 (1) Jack Roosevelt Robinson (January 31, 1919 — October 24, 1972), became the first African American Major League Baseball player of the modern era in 1947. (2) He was born in Cairo, Georgia, and moved with his mother and siblings to Pasadena, California, in 1920 after his father deserted the family. He attended John Muir Junior College and Pasadena City College where he was an enthusiastic athlete. At the University of California, Los Angeles, he was a star player of football, basketball, (3) track, and baseball there he was the first athlete in UCLA history to letter in four different sports. (4) Robinson’s honors at UCLA were impressive: for two years, he was the highest scorer in basketball competition in the Pacific Coast Conference, national champion long jumper, All-American football halfback and varsity baseball shortstop. He left college in 1941 because of financial problems.

2 (5) After leaving UCLA his senior year Robinson enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War II. He enlisted with a segregated Battalion, the U.S. 761st Tank Battalion. While initially refused admission to Officer Candidate School, (6) he fought for it, and eventually was accepted, graduating as a first lieutenant. While training in the Army at Fort Hood, Texas, Robinson refused to go to the back of a public bus. He was court-martialed for insubordination and, therefore, never made it to Europe with his unit. He later received an honorable discharge in 1944 after being acquitted of all charges at the court-martial.

3 Jackie played baseball in 1944 for the Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro American League where he was noticed by Clyde Sukeforth, a scout working for Branch Rickey who was the club president and general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Rickey had the secret goal of signing the Negro Leagues’ top players to the team. Although there was no official ban on blacks in organized baseball, previous attempts at signing black baseball players had been thwarted by league officials and rival clubs in the past, so Rickey operated undercover. Robinson drew national attention (7) when Rickey selected him from a list of promising candidates and signed him. In 1946, Robinson was assigned to play (8) for the Dodgers’ minor league affiliate in Montreal the Montreal Royals. Although that season was very tiring emotionally for Robinson, it was also a success in a city that treated him well and without the racial tension present in many North American cities of the times.

4 Robinson was a slightly curious candidate to be the first black Major Leaguer in fifty-seven years. Not only was he 27 (relatively old for a prospect), he also had a fiery temperament. While some felt his more laid-back future teammate Roy Campanella might have been a better candidate to face the expected abuse, (9) Rickey chose Robinson, feeling that Jackie’s outspoken nature would, in the long run, be more beneficial for their cause than Campanella’s relative docility. But to be sure Rickey had the right man, he laid upon Robinson a three-hour tirade of racial slurs, taunts, and insults in his office. Exasperated at the ordeal, Jackie asked if he should fight back. (10) “I want someone with guts enough not to fight back,” Rickey replied. Aware of what was at stake, Robinson agreed.
Although there was no official ban on blacks in organized baseball, previous attempts at signing black baseball players had been thwarted by league officials and rival clubs in the past, so Rickey operated undercover.

Which sentence BEST revises the sentence to eliminate wordiness?

A) Although there was no ban on blacks in baseball, previous attempts at signing black players had been thwarted by league officials and rival clubs in the past, so Rickey operated undercover.

B) Although there was no official ban on blacks in organized baseball, previous attempts at signing black baseball players had been thwarted by league officials in the past, so Rickey operated undercover.

C) Although there was no official ban on blacks in organized baseball, previous attempts at signing black baseball players had been thwarted by officials and clubs in the past, so Rickey operated undercover.

D) Although there was no official ban on blacks in organized baseball, previous attempts at signing black baseball players had been thwarted by league officials and rival clubs, so Rickey operated undercover.

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The Care and Keeping of Big Cats Part B
Kate McConnaughey

1. (10) One function of zoos being to provide safe places where endangered animals can breed. To be effective in producing healthy cats that are genetically diverse (born to unrelated parents), zoos will often ship animals long distances to find mates that would make a good match. (11) If you let closely related cats have offspring together, their young would be considered inbred, which means they don’t have a healthy mix of different backgrounds in their physical makeup. Inbred animals are prone to be sick or even die. Computer technology helps zoos be sure which animals would make the best mates for each other and avoid inbreeding.

2. (12) Animals that used in a Species Survival Plan are sometimes taken out of the public viewing areas for a private, less stressful area to breed and care for their offspring in the first critical weeks. Usually you can tell if animals on display in a zoo are involved in an SSP because there will be a sign posted on their enclosure.

3. One of the most important differences in zoos today from zoos long ago is that they are more than just living museums. (13) They are also in the battle valuable partners to save endangered species.

4. Food has to be wholesome and free from disease and parasites. (14) It may be meat, a prepared diet such as ZuPreem or Mazuri, but a combination of both. Food is served raw to prevent nutrient loss from cooking. Additives make up for the loss of calcium and micronutrients available in regular prey. (15) First, as part of good animal husbandry, food is individually prepared for each animal based on weight control and medication needs.

5. Like all other animals in captivity, zoo animals require occasional trips to the vet. The veterinarians that handle zoo animals are specially trained in exotic medicine, the diseases and conditions of animals not usually kept as pets. (16) Veterinary care usually is done at the zoo in a special health care building. That has the special equipment needed to fill cavities in a tiger’s teeth or perform surgery on a lion.

6. (17) When, for one reason or another, the parents of young big cats cannot raise their own offspring, the cubs and kittens are sent to a nursery where specially trained zoo staff and volunteers provide them with the food, stimulation, and affection. Young cats of all species cannot properly pass solid wastes on their own. A warm, wet washrag or sponge is used to wipe the backside of kittens and cubs to stimulate them to pass wastes, something they usually do in the wild when their mother cleans them with her tongue. (18) Proper nursing is especially important, yet cubs and kittens are never given milk while they are lying on their back. This can cause pneumonia. (19) The milk given to cats is different than the milk given to human children in a number of ways. Zoo personnel know the right way to mix milk for the different species of large and small cats in their care. (20) Temperature is carefully controlled since these young animals are not as good at controlling their body temperature as are adults.
A common golfer cannot play in the Masters or British Open with the world’s best-known golfers, nor can the average tennis player play against the world’s best at Wimbledon. No teenager just learning to drive can bank the turns with professional drivers at the Daytona 500. However, in the sport of road racing, common people and novice joggers can lace up and be in the same race as the world-class runners competing to win it all. The Peachtree Road Race in Atlanta, GA is the world’s largest 10K, boasting 55,000 runners who line up for blocks at 7:30am to run down Atlanta’s most famous street. Only a handful, however, really have a legitimate chance to win the prestigious crystal peach and the $15,000 first place prize that comes with it. The Peachtree Road Race is unique as a road race in three distinctive ways: it is run on the 4th of July, it has a rich tradition, and it is the most competitive 10K in the world.

One thing that makes the Peachtree Road Race special is that it takes place each year on Independence Day. (1) American flags are waved down Peachtree Street, and nearly everywhere red, white, and blue is seen. Many runners choose to wear stars-and-stripes as a part of their racing outfit, but no one is allowed to wear costumes in this serious race. That means no Statues of Liberty are officially allowed running down the road, as with other large festive races such as the Bay-to-Breakers 12K in San Francisco. (2) Because the Peachtree is run on a holiday, most people have the day off. (3) They either run the race or cheer on the runners from either side of the street. There are tens of thousands of spectators all along the course.

Not only is the race special because it takes place on a special day, but it also has a rich, over three-decade tradition. While the Boston Marathon can declare it is the oldest road race in America, few 10K’s can claim they’ve been around longer than the Peachtree Road Race. (4) The race began modestly in 1970. (5) There were only 110 people in the race. By 1980, just ten years later, the race had grown from 110 runners to over 20,000 people and had nearly outgrown the four-lane street. One thing the Peachtree Road Race is known for is the colorful, artful t-shirts. (6) Given only to those who finish the challenging course, the t-shirt is a big reason why so many of the 55,000 run the race. Another long-standing tradition is the Fräbel-designed crystal peach to the top ten men instead of a trophy. Another fixture each year is the competitive wheelchair race that precedes the footrace and lures the fastest wheelchair racers in the world. The winners complete the race in about 18-19 minutes. Of course, the wheelchair competitors are not the only ones who compete at a world-class level.

For its entire existence, the Peachtree Road Race has boasted Olympic-level victors. Olympic marathoner Jeff Galloway won the (7) opening race in 1970 when traffic was not even blocked off for the race, and runners had to run in the far right-hand lane. Other American Olympians like Frank Shorter, Don Kardong Craig Virgin, and Ed Eyestone each got his crystal peach. Despite not offering prize money for the first decade, (8) the race somehow got the best American runners the country had to offer. Yet, with the addition of prize money that rivaled any 10K prize purse in the world, elite international runners began toeing the line. Runners from Africa, Europe, and South America all began to make Peachtree a tradition of their own. Since the mid-80’s. Kenyans have dominated the men’s side, while the women’s winners have come from all parts of the globe: New Zealand, Norway, Germany, South Africa, the U.S., and only recently Kenya.

It is easy to see why the Peachtree Road Race has become a popular tradition for both the competitive world-class athlete and the weekend jogger alike. (9) A footrace down one of the most well-known streets in the South on the 4th of July is alone enough to make a runner want to become part of the tradition. Add to that mix—the amazing crowd cheering loudly for the entire race, the prestigious t-shirt, and the ability to run in the same race as those on running magazine covers—and you have the recipe for the world’s best 10K road race.
blocks:
1. A solid piece of a hard substance, such as wood, having one or more flat sides.
2. A stand from which articles are displayed and sold at an auction
3. A mold or form on which an item is shaped or displayed.
4. A measurement referring to the distance between intersecting city streets.

Which is the BEST definition for blocks as it is used in this sentence?

The Peachtree Road Race in Atlanta, GA is the world’s largest 10K, boasting 55,000 runners who line up for blocks at 7:30am to run down Atlanta’s most famous street.

A) Definition 1  
B) Definition 2  
C) Definition 3  
D) Definition 4