

## READING

### PASSAGE 2

Read the following poems about cats. Then answer questions 10–18 in your answer booklet.

# My Olympic Tabby Cat

by Lola Sneyd

Dancing leaves invite you  
Lightly you bounce  
down the wooden steps  
Paw-bat the wind-tossed  
golden birch and bronze oak leaves  
Race around the old oak tree  
Faster  
Faster  
The leaves dance higher  
You leap and dance  
Higher  
Higher

A dry oak leaf catches  
against the wooden fence

You pounce

Proudly you carry  
your bronze medal to me

And race  
to capture  
a gold

# Window Cat

by Karen S. Carlsen

Such cold wet winds,  
little cat,  
somehow yet, you yearn  
for that. Instead  
you purr and knead here  
on my lap—lovely docile<sup>1</sup>  
kitty cat.  
My fingers smooth  
your one-way fur,  
throatier still  
your deep rich purr.

But, then a bird!  
A flitting of red  
past the glass  
and you  
turn tiger,  
taut<sup>2</sup> and trembling  
beneath my  
forgotten fingers.  
Your eyes, black full moons  
brimming from green globes,  
flash intent  
desire.

Grief-struck, I see  
how readily you would prefer  
this world  
to me:  
the long twitching crouch in shadowy grass,  
the yowling spring,  
the shower of feathers, slowing  
fluttering and  
complacent<sup>3</sup> crunch of bone.  
How wrong was I to think you  
already home.

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<sup>1</sup> docile—easily taught or led

<sup>2</sup> taut—tense

<sup>3</sup> complacent—self-satisfied

## READING

### MULTIPLE-CHOICE ITEMS

#### B.1.1.1

10. Which word **best** describes the cat in “My Olympic Tabby Cat”?

- A lively
- B dignified
- C affectionate
- D popular

#### B.2.1.1

11. Which line from “My Olympic Tabby Cat” is an example of personification?

- A “Dancing leaves invite you”
- B “Lightly you bounce”
- C “Race around the old oak tree”
- D “Proudly you carry”

#### A.1.6.1

12. The poet’s purpose for writing “My Olympic Tabby Cat” is most likely to

- A inform the reader how the tabby cat won a prize.
- B describe how a cat plays a game outside.
- C instruct the reader how to amuse a cat.
- D explain how cats and leaves are alike.

#### A.1.1.2

13. Which word is a synonym for yearn as used in “Window Cat”?

- A waver
- B purr
- C hunt
- D desire

## READING

### B.2.1.2

14. Read the lines from the poem  
"Window Cat."

"Your eyes, black full moons  
brimming from green globes"

Why does the poet most likely describe the cat's eyes with this metaphor?

- A to explain that the cat is outside at night
- B to show that the cat's eyes are bright and alert
- C to show how the moon is reflected in the cat's eyes
- D to imply that the cat's eyes are very large

### A.1.3.1

15. How does the speaker's view of the cat change at the end of "Window Cat"?

- A The speaker dislikes the cat.
- B The speaker does not know what the cat wants.
- C The speaker does not feel as close to the cat.
- D The speaker needs to find a home for the cat.

Questions 16–18 relate to BOTH poems.

### B.1.2.1

16. Why do **both** poets most likely use first person point of view?

- A to explain the reasons for the cats' actions
- B to reveal how the speakers feel about the cats
- C to describe the cats' playful, graceful movements
- D to show how it feels to be gentle one minute and vicious the next

### B.1.2.1

17. In **both** poems, what most likely excites the cats?

- A a gold medal
- B shadows in the grass
- C attention from people
- D sudden movements



- [illegible]

## READING

### ITEM-SPECIFIC SCORING GUIDELINE

#### Item #18

This item will be reported under Category B, Interpretation and Analysis of Fictional and Nonfictional Text.

#### Assessment Anchor:

B.1 Understand components within and between texts.

#### Specific Eligible Content addressed by this item:

B.1.2.1 Interpret, compare, describe, analyze, and/or evaluate connections between texts.

#### Scoring Guide:

Score	In response to this item the student—
3	demonstrates complete knowledge of making connections between texts by explaining why the setting is important in both poems and by using at least one example from each poem to support the explanation.
2	demonstrates partial knowledge of making connections between texts by explaining why the setting is important in both poems. (Example: Student explains why the setting is important in both poems and uses one example from one of the poems to support the explanation.)
1	demonstrates incomplete knowledge of making connections between texts by explaining why the setting is important in both poems. (Example: Student uses an example from one of the poems to imply why the setting is important without explicitly stating an explanation.)
0	gives a response that provides insufficient material for scoring or is inaccurate in all aspects.
Non-scorable	BLK (blank)...No response or written refusal to respond or response too brief to determine response OT .....Off task/topic LOE ..... Response in a language other than English IL ..... Illegible

#### Example—Top Scoring Response (3 Points):

Explanation and Examples
The setting is important because it helps reveal the personality of each cat. In “My Olympic Tabby Cat” the cat is proud of its leaf-chasing outside. In “Window Cat” the cat is inside and shows that it has a hunter instinct and would like to go outside and chase birds.

## READING

### OPEN-ENDED ITEM RESPONSES

#### B.1.2.1 Response Score: 3

18. Explain why the setting is important in **both** poems. Use at least one example from each poem to support your explanation.

The setting is important in each poem because it ties together the basic idea of the poem. In the passage "My Olympic Tabby Cat" the cat's setting is outside, around a tree and it's windy. The observer is comparing the capture of a leaf to obtaining a gold medal. If the setting was inside, there would not be any leaves. For example "The leaves dance higher / You leap and dance." The poem would completely change.

In the poem "Window Cat" the setting is inside a home and the cat is sitting on its owners lap. If the cat was outside alone, the poem would lose its meaning, which is about how cats have their own natural instincts. For example "Grief struck, I see / how readily you would prefer this world to me". This would never had been learned in a different setting.

In conclusion the setting is what tied the poems together.

The student has given a complete answer to the task by explaining why the setting is important in both poems ("The observer is comparing the capture of a leaf to obtaining a gold medal" and "cats have their own natural instincts") and by using one example from each poem to support the explanation ("The leaves dance higher / You leap and dance" and "Grief struck, I see / how readily you would prefer this world to me").

## READING

### B.1.2.1 Response Score: 2

18. Explain why the setting is important in **both** poems. Use at least one example from each poem to support your explanation.

The setting is important in "My Olympic Tabby Cat" because the leaves whipping around give you the sense of joyful play. The cat also runs around an oak tree. The setting is important in "Window Cat" because seeing the bird through the window triggers the "tiger" emotion in the cat. That is why the setting is important in both of these poems.

The student has given a partial answer to the task by explaining why the setting is important in both poems ("the leaves whipping around give you a sense of joyful play" and "seeing the bird through the window triggers the 'tiger' emotion . . .") and by using an example from one of the poems ("The cat . . . runs around an oak tree") to support the response.

## READING

### B.1.2.1 Response Score: 2

18. Explain why the setting is important in **both** poems. Use at least one example from **each** poem to support your explanation.

The setting in "My Olympic Tabby Cat" is important because the cat would have not been able to chase the leaves if it would not have been windy or if he had not been outside.

The Setting is important in Window cat because if it would not have been cold and wet outside and if he hadn't seen the bird the cat might have wanted to stay inside.

The student has given a partial answer to the task by using one example from each poem ("the cat would not have been able to chase the leaves if it would not have been windy . . . outside" and "if he hadn't seen the bird the cat might have wanted to stay inside") to imply why the setting is important in both poems without explicitly stating an explanation.

## READING

### B.1.2.1 Response Score: 1

18. Explain why the setting is important in **both** poems. Use at least one example from each poem to support your explanation.

It is important because in the first poem the cat is outside catching leaves. In the second poem the cat is catching birds.

The student has given an incomplete answer to the task by using an example from one of the poems ("the cat is outside catching leaves") to imply why the setting is important without explicitly stating an explanation. The second sentence is inaccurate.

## READING

### B.1.2.1 Response Score: 1

18. Explain why the setting is important in **both** poems. Use at least one example from **each** poem to support your explanation.

If there wasn't a tree there  
woldn't be any leaves.

The student has given an incomplete answer to the task by explaining why the setting is important in one of the poems ("If there wasn't a tree there woldn't be any leaves").

## READING

**B.1.2.1 Response Score: 0**

18. Explain why the setting is important in **both** poems. Use at least one example from **each** poem to support your explanation.

Because people love their cats, they treat them right and give them stuff. Cats are good pets to have. They have good spirits.

The student's response is inaccurate in all aspects.