PASSAGE 2

Read the following poem about a summer day. Then answer questions 9–17 in your answer booklet.

The Fire Escape

by Michelle Chen

Heat hung
like damp stockings
over the taut wire of
the neighborhood
upon which we balanced
and let the heaving warmth
drop into our lungs.
Long, dewy limbs
propped against
the grainy edge
of a building's roof,
scorched tarpaper
sanding down the
edges of the sun.
Surfaces turned to
bisque in the blurry air
of this fiery kiln,
our grandmothers below
feeding pigeons
beneath the cheap shade
of nylon umbrellas.
You, looking for a soda,
me, watching boys on bicycles,
rubber wheels broiling
on crumbling asphalt.
It was too hot
to speak, so we
watched the radiant city,
like watching a cake
rise, from the
fire escape.

MULTIPLE-CHOICE ITEMS

B.1.1.1

9. Which statement **best** describes the speaker's relationship to the fire escape?

A It is too hot to touch.

B It is dangerous to climb on.

* C It is a place to observe things.

D It is where people feed pigeons.

B.2.1.1

10. In the poem, what does the image of balancing on a wire most likely refer to?

A playing a dangerous game

* B coping with an uncomfortable situation

C choosing a courageous course of action

D longing to be somewhere else

B.1.1.1

11. The speaker's feeling about the heat can **best** be described as

A confused.

B indifferent.

C appreciative.

* D accepting.

A.1.3.1

12. The speaker of the poem is most likely addressing

* A a friend.

B the pigeons.

C a grandparent.

D the neighborhood.

B.2.1.2

13. The poet's description of the heat relies mainly on the use of

A hyperbole.

B personification.

* C similes and metaphors.

D alliteration and imagery.

B.2.1.1

14. Read these lines from the poem.

"You, looking for a soda,/me, watching boys on bicycles,/rubber wheels broiling/on crumbling asphalt."

The description of the bicycle wheels makes it seem as though the asphalt is a kind of

A rack.

B ramp.

* C grill.

D trail.

B.2.1.1

15. Why did the poet most likely choose the image of a cake rising to describe the city?

A A cake rises slowly over time.

* B A cake rises as it bakes in a hot oven.

C People often wait impatiently for a cake to rise.

D People often consider cake to be a special treat.

A.1.1.2

16. Read the lines from the poem.

" . . . rubber wheels broiling/on <u>crumbling</u> asphalt."

Which word is an antonym for <u>crumbling</u>?

A worn

B plain

C broken

* D solid

OPEN-ENDED ITEM

B.2.1.2

17. Explain how the title of the poem has more than one meaning. Use at least three examples from the poem in your explanation.

ITEM-SPECIFIC SCORING GUIDELINE

Item #17

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

Assessment Anchor:

B.2 Understand literary devices in fictional and nonfictional text.

Specific Eligible Content addressed by this item:

B.2.1.2 Identify, interpret, describe, and/or analyze the author's purpose for and effectiveness at using figurative language in text.

Scoring Guide:

Score	In response to this item, the student—
3	demonstrates complete knowledge of understanding an author's purpose for using figurative language by explaining how the title of the poem has more than one meaning using at least three examples from the poem in the explanation.
2	demonstrates partial knowledge of understanding an author's purpose for using figurative language by explaining how the title of the poem has more than one meaning. (Example: Student explains how the title of the poem has more than one meaning using two examples from the poem in the explanation.)
1	demonstrates incomplete knowledge of understanding an author's purpose for using figurative language by explaining how the title of the poem has more than one meaning. (Example: Student uses one example from the poem to imply how the title of the poem has more than one meaning without explicitly stating the meaning.)
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 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 title of the poem has more than one meaning because "The Fire Escape" is a place where the speaker "watched our grandmothers below feeding pigeons" and where the speaker sees a friend "looking for a soda." The title also refers to an escape, or the act of getting away, from the heat of the hot day. A way of escaping the heat of the city is described as watching "the radiant city, like watching a cake rise, from the fire escape."

OPEN-ENDED ITEM RESPONSES

B.2.1.2 Response Score: 3

17. Explain how the title of the poem has more than one meaning. Use at least three examples from the poem in your explanation.

The title of the poem, the Fire Escape, has many meanings. An example of this is when the author says "surfaces turn to bisque in the blurry air of this firey kiln." This could be taken as the city going up in flames because it is so hot. A kiln is used to bake things, so it gets very hot, just like this summer day. Another good example of how the term "Fire Escape" could be taken is when the author describes how the rubber wheels of the boys bikes are "broiling on crumbling asphalt." This could mean fire escape, because the boys are riding their bikes to escape the broiling heat of the fire. Another way to take the title of this poem, is the title means what is says. At the end of the poem, the speaker of the poem says that "we watched the city, like watching a cake rise from the fire escape," which means they were looking out on the city from the Fire escape.

The student has given a complete answer to the task by explaining how the title of the poem has more than one meaning ("the city going up in flames because it is so hot" and "they were looking out on the city from the Fire escape"), using at least three examples from the poem ("surfaces turn to bisque in the blurry air of this firey kiln," "the rubber wheels of the boys bikes are 'broiling on crumbing asphalt' " and " 'we watched the city, like watching a cake rise from the fire escape' ") in the explanation.

B.2.1.2 Response Score: 2

17. Explain how the title of the poem has more than one meaning. Use at least three examples from the poem in your explanation.

The title of the poem "The Fire escape", has more then one meaning. The line, "let the heaving warmth drop into our lungs." I thought the author was in a fire and the smoke was filling their lungs. When I read the last line of the poem, I relized, it was about a Hot Summer day, and the author was trying to escape the heat, by hanging out on the fire escape of an apartment.

The student has given a partial answer to the task by explaining how the title of the poem has more than one meaning ("a Hot Summer day, . . . trying to escape the heat"), using two examples from the poem ("let the heaving warmth drop into our lungs" and "hanging out on the fire escape of an apartment") in the explanation.

B.2.1.2 Response Score: 2

17. Explain how the title of the poem has more than one meaning. Use at least three examples from the poem in your explanation.

The title fire escape has more then just one meaning. The meaning is a hot summer day in a neighborhood. It says in the beging of the poem "Heat hung like damp stockings over the taut wire of the neighborhood. Also it says "so we watch the radient city like watching cake rise. This means that they are watching the hot city keep on rising and getting hotter. This is why the title of the poem has more than one meaning.

The student has given an incomplete answer to the task by using two examples from the poem ("Heat hung like damp stockings over the taut wire of the neighborhood" and "so we watch the radient city like watching cake rise") to imply an explanation of how the title of the poem has one meaning without explicitly explaining how it does.

B.2.1.2 Response Score: 1

17. Explain how the title of the poem has more than one meaning. Use at least three examples from the poem in your explanation.

Because in the poem all the author does is talk about the heat, and the title is "The fire Escape" so I guess he was trying to escape the heat. For example: The last sentence sums the poem up,

It was to hot to speak, so we watched the radiant city, like watching a cake rise, from the fire escape.

The student has given an incomplete answer to the task by explaining how the title of the poem has more than one meaning ("he was trying to escape the heat"), using one example from the poem ("It was to hot to speak, so we watched the radiant city, like watching a cake rise, from the fire escape") in the explanation.

B.2.1.2 Response Score: 1

17. Explain how the title of the poem has more than one meaning. Use at least three examples from the poem in your explanation.

Poems can have many different meanings, depending on the way the author writes it. In the poem, "The Fire Escape" The author describes a hot day. The author used a lot of imagery to describe the city on a day like that.

The student has given an incomplete answer to the task by giving a general statement ("The author describes a hot day") to imply an explanation of how the title of the poem has more than one meaning based on details from the poem without using any examples from the poem.

B.2.1.2 Response Score: 0

17. Explain how the title of the poem has more than one meaning. Use at least three examples from the poem in your explanation.

It has more then one thing it's talking about. like it's talking about a cake and trees. And stuff like that. And the title is called fire escape. In the poemit has more then one meaning. Because it's talking about different things in the poem. Theres alot of stuff it's talking about in the poem in there. Like different things in there. It's just not about the fire escape and all. It's talking about other things to. So it dose have more then one meaning.

The student's response is inaccurate in all aspects.