

**MISD ELA Post Assessment 7.1—Persistent Pursuits—Multiple Choice--Teacher (test ID 10890)**

**THEME: Solving problems/mysteries involves persistence and attention to all of the evidence.**

**DIRECTIONS:** You will be reading two selections, responding to multiple choice questions about each selection, to across-the-texts multiple choice questions, and to an across-the-texts essay question. You are encouraged to read the texts deeply, take notes in the margins, and look back at the selections as often as you wish as you answer the questions. The selections and the questions are focused on the following theme statement: **Solving Problems and/or mysteries involves persistence and attention to all of the evidence.** Keep this theme statement in mind as you read and answer questions.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Sept. 28, 2009

## **Lost Dog Gathers Clues to Find its Family**

### **A Hopelessly Lost Rottweiler and the Dedicated Animal Rescue Worker who Found her Family**

By Steve Hartman

Ella, a Rottweiler, was in a car crash and scavenged for food on the highway for weeks. Ella was reunited with her family but as Steve Hartman tells us, the story doesn't end there.



Ella, a lost Rottweiler, is reunited with her family. (CBS)

(CBS) Over the last 20 years, the Love Me Tender animal rescue in central Tennessee has rounded up more than 1,000 abandoned dogs. And although most are timid and untrusting, **CBS News correspondent Steve Hartman** reports, one Rottweiler named Ella was notably different.

"I could just tell right away she was somebody's baby. She just didn't act like a stray dog to me," said Kathy Wilkes-Myers, who found the dog a few months ago.

Ella was emaciated and drinking from a drainage ditch along an empty stretch of highway. Kathy says it's typical for people to dump unwanted pets in the middle of nowhere - but again, the dog's demeanor convinced her there was more to the story. So she did some detective work, and what she found is a heart-wrenching tale of unending loyalty.

"She was hoping her family could come back. But they couldn't. They couldn't come back. It just breaks your heart," said Kathy.

Kathy found the first clues to this mystery - broken glass and tail lights - right near where she found the dog.

And just down from there, she found a second set of even more intriguing clues: personal items gathered up. By the dog, she assumed.

"It was like she was sleeping with them - or waiting with them," Kathy said.

She took a picture with her cell phone and then gathered the items. They were mostly random, personal things - toothbrush, comb, razor, a candle that said Michelle, but nothing that would explain anything - although now, she did have a hunch.

Kathy remembered two weeks earlier she'd driven by an accident on the same stretch of highway. She remembered because it was such a horrible crash. A single car had flipped over and landed on the side of the road, at just about the same spot where she found the dog.

Based on what she saw that day, Kathy figured there was no way a person could have survived, but what about a dog? So she called the highway patrol.

"She gave me the mom's name and the dad's name and the mom's name was Michelle. And I thought, 'Oh my God, this is their dog,' she said.

Thrown from the car, rescue crews never saw the dog. She spent 13 days scavenging for food along the highway - and 13 nights bedding down with whatever she could find that smelled like her lost family.

"That's the last spot she saw her family and she was going to stay there," Kathy said.

Kathy figured it all out. But fortunately, she got one thing very wrong. Someone did survive the crash. In fact, all five family members survived.

"I'm lucky to be sitting here with my family," said Joe Kelly, the family's father.

After two weeks believing that their dog, Ella, had died, the family of Joe and Michelle Kelly got the most wonderful, slobbery surprise of their lives.

For the first time since the accident, the Kelly's had a good reason to cry - all thanks to a dog who refused to forget her family - and the stranger who refused to take lost for an answer.

Unfortunately, it was a bittersweet reunion because of the accident and the medical expenses; the Kelly family has had to temporarily relocate to a place that doesn't allow dogs.

The good news is, Kathy has promised to hold onto Ella for as long as the Kellys need to get back on their feet.

[http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/09/28/assignment\\_america/main5347232.shtml](http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/09/28/assignment_america/main5347232.shtml)

## *The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin, Chapter 27*

HIS AVIATOR'S HELMET again flapping over his ears. Otis Amber danced up to his soup-kitchen companion, flung his arms around the taut body, and squeezed her tightly. "Hey Crow old pal, old pal, old pal."

"They said I was innocent, Otis. They said I was innocent," she replied vaguely.

Angela, too, wanted to hug her in welcome, but closeness was not possible for either of them. Instead, Angela offered a crooked smile. Crow nodded and lowered her eyes, only to raise them to Madame Hoo, clutching a Mickey Mouse clock. "Things very good," Madam Hoo said, extending her free hand and shaking Crow's hand up and down.

"It was all a regrettable mistake," Ed Plum explained to the judge. "Can you imagine, that sheriff wanted to arrest me, not Crow – me, Edgar Jennings Plum – he wanted to arrest the attorney! Fortunately, the coroner determined Mr. McSouthers died of a heart attack, as did Samuel W. Westing."

"Then Turtle's right." Theo said. "There was no murder. The coroner was part of the plot."

Ed Plum had no idea what Theo was talking about. Masking his ignorance with arrogance, he continued. "I had my suspicions about this entire affair from the start. I came here for one reason only: to announce my resignation from all matters regarding the Westing estate, with sincere apologies to all concerned."

"Wasn't there a last document?" Judge Ford asked, knowing that Sam Westing had to make his last move.

"Yes, but as I no longer take a legal interest..."

"Please turn it over to the court."

Baffled by the word "court," the lawyer set the envelope on the desk and found his way out of Sunset Towers.

Without once clearing her throat. Judge Ford proceeded to read the final page of the will of Samuel W. Westing.

**SEVENTEENTH** \* *Good-bye, my heirs. Thanks for the fun and games. I can rest in peace knowing I was loved as your jolly doorman.*

**EIGHTEENTH** \* *I, Samuel W. Westing, otherwise known as Sandy McSouthers and others, do hereby give and bequeath all the property and possessions in my name as follows:*

*To all of you in equal shares, the deed to Sunset Towers:*

*And to my former wife, Berthe Erica Crow the ten-thousand-dollar check forfeited by table one, and two ten-thousand-dollar checks endorsed by J. J. Ford and Alexander McSouthers.*

**NINETEENTH** \* *The sun has set on your Uncle Sam. Happy birthday, Crow. And to all of my heirs, a very happy Fourth of July.*

Judge Ford set the document down. "That's it."

That's it? What about the two hundred million dollars, the heirs wanted to know.

"We lost the game," the judge explained, staring at Turtle, her face a mask of sad, childlike innocence as she nestled once again in Flora Baumbach's arms. "I think."

Turtle rose and walked to the side window, seeking the Westing house, which stood invisible in the moon-clouded night. (Hurry up, Uncle Sam, I can't keep up this act much longer. The candle must have burned through the last stripe by now.)

Behind her the discontented heirs grumbled: He made fools of us all. He played us like puppets. He was a g-good m-man. He was a vengeful man, a hateful man. Windkloppel? He tricked us, the cheat. A madman, stark raving mad.

“Oh my, oh my, just listen to you,” Flora Baumbach said. “You each have ten thousand dollars more than you started with and an apartment building to boot. The man is dead, so why not think the best?”

BOOM!

BOOM!

BOOM!

“Happy Fourth of July,” Turtle shouted as the first rockets lit up the Westing house, lit up the sky.

BOOM-BOOM-BOOM-BOOM.

BOOM!!!

The heirs gathered around Turtle at the window.

BOOM! Stars of all colors bursting into the night, silver pin-wheels spinning, golden lances up-up-BOOM! Crimson flashes flashing blasting, scarlet showers BOOM! Emerald rain BOOM! BOOM! Orange flames, red flames leaping from the windows, sparking the turrets, firing the trees....

“BOOM!” cried Madame Hoo, clapping her hands with delight.

The great winter fireworks extravaganza, as it came to be called, lasted only fifteen minutes. Twenty minutes later the Westing house had burned to the ground.

“Happy birthday, Crow,” Otis Amber said, reaching for her hand.

\*\*\*\*\*

The orange glow of the morning sun had just begun its climb up the glass front of Sunset Towers when Turtle set out to collect the prize. She pedaled north past the cliff, still smoldering with the charred remains of the Westing house. Reaching the crossroads, she turned into the narrow lane whose twisting curves mimicked the shoreline.

*The heir who wins the windfall will be the one who finds the fourth.* It was so simple once you knew what you were looking for. Sam Westing, Barney Northrup, Sandy McSouthers (west north, south). Now she was on her way to meet the fourth identity of Windy Windkloppel. She could probably have figured out the address too, instead of looking it up in the Westingtown phone book – there it was, number four Sunrise Lane.

A long driveway, its privacy guarded by tall spruce, led to the modern mansion of the newly elected chairman of the board of Westing Paper Products Corporation. Turtle climbed the stairs rang the bells, and waited. The door opened.

Turtle felt her first grip of panic as she confronted the crippled doctor. Could she have been wrong? “I’d like to see Mr. Eastman please,” she said nervously. “Tell him Turtle Wexler is here.”

“Mr. Eastman is expecting you,” Doctor Sikes said. “Go straight down the hall.”

The hall had an inlaid marble floor (no Oriental rugs). Reaching its end, she entered a paneled library (this one filled with books). There he was, sitting at the desk.

Julian R. Eastman rose. He looked stern. And very proper. He wore a gray business suit with a vest, a striped tie. His shoes were shined. He limped as he walked toward her, not the crooked limp of Doctor Sikes, just a small limp, a painful limp. Again Turtle was gripped by panic. He seemed so different, so important. She shouldn’t have kicked him (the Barney Northrup him). He was coming closer. His watery-blue eyes stared at her over his rimless half-glasses. Hard eyes. His teeth were white, not quite even (no one would ever guess they were false). He was smiling. He wasn’t angry with her, he was smiling.

“Hi, Sandy,” Turtle said. “I won!”

**MISD ELA Post Assessment 7.1—Persistent Pursuits—Multiple Choice--Teacher**  
**THEME: Solving problems/mysteries involves persistence and attention to all of the evidence.**

Read “Lost Dog Gathers Clues to Find Its Family” and answer questions 1-8. For each question, choose the BEST answer. You may look back at “Lost Dog Gathers Clues to Find Its Family” as often as necessary.

- 1** The author’s purpose in this interview was to  
**R.IT.07.01 P**  
**A** give information about Love Me Tender animal rescue.  
**B** convey an inspiring story of a dog’s love.  
**C** describe Kathy’s persistence to solve a mystery.  
**D** do all of the above. \*
- 2** In the sentence “Ella was emaciated and drinking from a drainage ditch along an empty stretch of highway,” the word *emaciated* means  
**R.WS.07.01 P**  
**A** defensive.  
**B** timid.  
**C** wild.  
**D** thin. \*
- 3** In this interview, Kathy could be described as  
**R.WS.07.01 P**  
**A** sarcastic.  
**B** romantic.  
**C** compassionate. \*  
**D** all of the above.
- 4** Which of the following clues helped Kathy identify the right family?  
**R.IT.07.02 P**  
**A** comb  
**B** tail lights  
**C** broken glass  
**D** candle \*
- 5** Kathy is watching Ella because  
**R.IT.07.01 P**  
**A** the family is in the hospital.  
**B** of her deep attachment for the dog.  
**C** the dog needs special care.  
**D** the family is in financial hard times.\*
- 6** In this article, Ella appears to rely on her sense of  
**R.IT.07.01 P**  
**A** sight.  
**B** smell. \*  
**C** taste.  
**D** hearing.

- 7 Which of the following is the detective in this article?  
**R.IT.07.01 P**  
A Ella  
B Michelle  
C Steve  
D Kathy \*
- 8 The author emphasizes the reunion through which of the following?  
**R.IT.07.03 P**  
A a photograph \*  
B Kathy's words  
C Michelle's tears  
D all of the above

Read Chapter 27 of *The Westing Game* and answer questions 9-18. For each question, choose the BEST answer. You may look back at Chapter 27 as often as necessary.

- 9 After the reading of the will, which of the following characters uses onomatopoeia when speaking?  
**R.NT.07.04 P**  
A Turtle Wexler  
B Judge Ford  
C Otis Amber  
D Madame Hoo \*
- 10 The author **MOST** likely wrote this chapter to  
**R.NT.07.02 P**  
A resolve the problem. \*  
B emphasize characters.  
C describe the setting.  
D build tension.
- 11 In the sentence "The great winter fireworks extravaganza, as it came to called, lasted only fifteen minutes," the word *extravaganza* means  
**R.WS.07.01 P**  
A story.  
B expense.  
C show. \*  
D folly.
- 12 Which of the following orders of names leads to the solution?  
**R.NT.07.02 P**  
A Sam, Barney, Sandy, Jullian \*  
B Westing, McSouthers, Northrup, Eastman  
C Barney, Sandy, Sam, Jullian  
D Eastman, Westing, McSouthers, Northrup

- 13 In this excerpt, which of the following characters is **MOST** described in physical detail?  
**R.NT.07.03 P**  
A Turtle Wexler  
B Jullian Eastman \*  
C Doctor Sikes  
D Otis Amber
- 14 Which clue enables Turtle to predict fireworks?  
**R.NT.07.02 P**  
A SEVENTEENTH  
B EIGHTEENTH  
C NINETEENTH \*  
D All of the above.
- 15 Which of the following **BEST** illustrates the attorney’s arrogance or self-importance?  
**R.NT.07.02 P**  
A “It was all a regrettable mistake.”  
B “Mr. McSouthers died of a heart attack.”  
C “as did Samuel W. Westing”  
D “me, Edgar Jennings Plum” \*
- 16 Which of the following characters suspects Turtle has solved the mystery?  
**R.NT.07.02 P**  
A Edgar Plum  
B Otis Amber  
C Judge Ford \*  
D Madame Hoo

**DIRECTIONS:** Questions 17-20 ask about both of the selections you have just read, “Lost Dog Gathers Clues to Find Its Family” and Chapter 27 of *The Westing Game*. For each question, choose the **BEST** answer. You may look back at both selections as often as necessary.

- 17 Both selections contain  
**R.CM.07.03 P**  
A. a heroine.  
B clues.  
C dialogue.  
D all of the above. \*
- 18 Turtle and Kathy are alike in  
**R.CM.07.01 P**  
A gender. \*  
B age.  
C interest.  
D all of the above.

- 19** What is an important assumption of both selections?  
**R.CM.07.03 P**  
**A** Money is a strong incentive to solve a mystery.  
**B** Animals are natural detectives due to their senses.  
**C** A curious mind is crucial when solving a mystery. \*  
**D** A good detective uses his/her connections.
- 20** On what point would both authors **MOST LIKELY** agree?  
**R.CM.07.03 P**  
**A** Mysteries are solved through attention to detail. \*  
**B** A dog is capable of solving a difficult mystery.  
**C** Children and dogs are often underestimated.  
**D** Clues and details always guide one to the solution.

**Responding to Reading Selections**  
**(R.CM.07.03 P, R.CS.07.01 P)**

**DIRECTIONS:** Write a one- to two-page response to the following across-the-texts question. Your own ideas and experiences should be used along with references to and/or examples from the two selections you have just read, *The Westing Game* and “Lost Dog Gathers Clues to Find Its Family.” You may look back at both selections as often as necessary.

**Think about the following statement in relation to *The Westing Game* and “Lost Dog Gathers Clues to Find Its Family.”**

*Solving problems and/or mysteries involves persistence and attention to all of the evidence.*

**How does the statement apply to both selections? Make specific references to the selections in supporting your answer.**

Refer to the checklist and rubric provided as you plan and write your response.

**CHECKLIST FOR REVISION:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Do I include a thesis statement in my introduction?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do I support my thesis with examples and details from both of the selections?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is my writing organized and complete?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have I proofread my spelling, usage, grammar, and mechanics?

## **MISD ELA Post Assessment**

### **Writing in Response to Reading**

(Adapted from the Michigan Educational Assessment Program  
Integrated English Language Arts Assessment HS Rubric)

- 6** The student effectively synthesizes and applies key ideas, generalizations, and principles from within each reading selection to support a thesis in response to the question and makes a clear connection between the reading selections. The thesis and connection are thoroughly developed through the use of appropriate examples and details. There are no misconceptions about the reading selections. There are strong relationships among ideas. Mastery of language use and writing conventions contributes to the effect of the response.
- 5** The student makes meaningful use of key ideas from within each reading selection to support a thesis in response to the question and makes a clear connection between the reading selections. The thesis and connection are well developed through the use of appropriate examples and details. Minor misconceptions may be present. Relationships among ideas are clear to the reader. The language is controlled, and occasional lapses in writing conventions are hardly noticeable.
- 4** The student makes adequate use of ideas from within each reading selection to support a thesis in response to the question and makes a connection between the reading selections. This position and connections are supported by examples and details. Minor misconceptions may be present. Language use is correct. Lapses in writing conventions are not distracting.
- 3** The student make adequate use of ideas from one reading selection **OR** makes partially successful use of ideas from both reading selections to support a thesis in response to the question. The thesis is developed with limited use of examples and details. Misconceptions may indicate only a partial understanding of the reading selections. Language use is correct but limited. Incomplete mastery over writing conventions may interfere with meaning some of the time.
- 2** The student makes partially successful use of ideas from one reading selection **OR** minimal use of ideas from both reading selections to support a thesis in response to the question. The thesis is underdeveloped. Major misconceptions may indicate minimal understanding of the reading selections. Limited mastery over writing conventions may make the writing difficult to understand.
- 1** The student does not state a thesis but makes at least minimal use of ideas from one or both of the reading selections to respond to the question **OR** minimally uses ideas from only one of the reading selections to support a thesis in response to the question. Ideas are not developed and may be unclear. Major misconceptions may indicate a lack of understanding of the reading selections. Lack of mastery over writing conventions may make the writing difficult to understand.

#### **Not ratable if:**

- a retells/references the reading selections with no connection to the question or thesis
- b off topic
- c illegible/written in a language other than English
- d blank/refused to respond
- e responds to the question with no reference to either selection