

PSJA-ISD
8th GRADE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
STAAR-LIT

Genre: Poetry

Selection: "Learning to Read"

Use "Learning to Read" to answer questions 30 - 35. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.

8.4 Fig 19D [Inferencing Poetry]

30 Based on the details in the poem, the reader can conclude that the speaker is—

- F** eager to reach the age of sixty
- G** skillful at reciting hymns from the bible
- H** determined to learn how to read
- J** competing with other former slaves to see who learns to read first

8.2B [Context Clues]

31 The word sneer in stanza 7 means to—

- A** show embarrassment
- B** help or offer assistance
- C** display a facial expression of sadness
- D** smile or speak in a contemptuous manner

8.8 Fig 19D [Inferencing Sensory Language]

32 The imagery line 32 helps the reader—

- F** visualize the speaker's enthusiasm to learn to read
- G** focus on how appealing it was for her to read the bible
- H** understand others' feelings of skepticism toward the speaker
- J** appreciate the relationship between a woman and her faith

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8.8A [Figurative Language]

- 33** In the last stanza, the poet uses the simile, "independent as a queen upon her throne" to—
- A** emphasize that the speaker views reading as something reserved for royalty
 - B** demonstrate that she is confident enough to make her own decisions
 - C** reveal her desire to be free from slavery
 - D** show that she feels more self-reliant living in her own home

8.8 Fig 19D [Inferencing Sensory]

- 34** What does the sensory language in stanza 10 suggest about the narrator?
- F** She knows her friends support her decision to learn to read.
 - G** She feels it is unlikely that she will ever learn to read.
 - H** She wants to be able to read the bible before she dies.
 - J** She believes reciting the hymns and Testament will help her learn to read.

8.4 Fig 19D [Inferencing Poetry]

- 35** In the third stanza, the poet uses the words "steal A little from the book" and "learn by hook or crook" to—
- A** show how resolved they were to learn to read
 - B** suggest that the masters had nothing to fear
 - C** describe how they were charged as criminals for breaking slave laws
 - D** illustrate how difficult it was to teach slaves to read

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Answer Key

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ITEM #	STUDENT EXPECTATION	ANSWER
30	8.4 Fig 19D	H
31	8.2B	D
32	8.8 Fig 19D	H
33	8.8A	B
34	8.8 Fig 19D	H
35	8.4 Fig 19D	A