NORTHWEST TERRITORIES COMPOSITION 11 (MCMPS11) · UNIT B · 25 QUESTIONS

Narrative and Descriptive Writing — Practice Test

This practice test was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button to let Brett know so he can fix it.

Reading I - The Lighthouse Stairs

Use this reading for questions 1 to 4.

Mara counted the stairs as she climbed, ninety-one, ninety-two, and the wind drummed against the iron door above her. She had promised her grandmother she would light the lamp before dark, and the promise felt heavier with every step.

At the top, her hands shook as she struck the match. The flame caught, the great lens turned, and the beam swept out over the grey water. Mara laughed, a small surprised sound, because she had done the thing she feared most.

1 According to Reading I, what drives Mara up the stairs

- A a promise to light the lamp before dark
- B a wish to count every stair in the tower
- C a plan to meet her grandmother at the top
- D a need to escape the wind outside

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

2 **According to Reading I, how is Mara's fear mainly shown to the reader**

A through a statement that Mara is a fearful person

B through a list of facts about lighthouses

C through a summary of the whole story

D through her actions, such as counting stairs and shaking hands

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

3 **According to Reading I, which point of view is used in the story**

A first person, told by Mara herself

B second person, speaking directly to the reader

C third person, telling Mara's story from outside

D no point of view at all

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

4 **According to Reading I, the moment the flame catches and the beam sweeps out is best described as the story's**

A list of background facts

B final summary of the theme

C opening description of the setting

D climax, or turning point

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

5 **Which order lists the parts of a plot in the order they usually appear**

A falling action, exposition, climax, resolution

B climax, exposition, resolution, rising action

C exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution

D resolution, climax, exposition, rising action

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

6 **A draft says: She was nervous. Which revision best shows her nervousness instead of telling it**

- A She was a nervous person in general
- B Nervousness is a common feeling for people
- C She felt nervous about many things
- D Her hands shook and she counted the stairs twice

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

7 **Which sentence uses sensory detail**

- A The cold iron railing stung her palms
- B She was in a lighthouse that day
- C The story takes place in a tower
- D She went up the stairs to the top

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

8 **Which sentence uses figurative language**

- A The lamp was at the top of the tower
- B Mara climbed ninety-two stairs
- C The wind drummed against the iron door
- D The door was made of iron

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

9 **The main purpose of descriptive writing is to**

- A help the reader picture a person, place, or moment
- B give step by step instructions for a task
- C argue that a rule should be changed
- D list facts in a table for quick reference

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

10 **A writer describes a kitchen from the doorway to the far window, in the order a visitor would see it. This ordering is called**

- A alphabetical order, following the alphabet
- B random order, with no pattern at all
- C reverse order, starting with the conclusion
- D spatial order, following space from one point to another

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

11 **A writer studies a strong opening written by another writer in order to learn how hooks work. This is studying a model, and the writer should then**

- A try a similar opening technique on a new topic
- B avoid ever writing an opening again
- C claim the model's opening as original work
- D copy the model's words exactly into a new piece

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

12 **In a narrative, dialogue mainly reveals character by showing**

A the spelling rules used by the writer

B how a character speaks, thinks, and relates to others

C the exact number of words in the story

D the date on which the story was written

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

13 **A narrator who starts in a formal voice and suddenly switches to slang has a problem with**

A voice, because the voice is no longer consistent

B plot, because the story has no climax

C setting, because the place is unclear

D spelling, because slang is misspelled

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

14 **Which verb choice is most precise for a descriptive sentence about a tired hiker**

A The hiker went along the trail

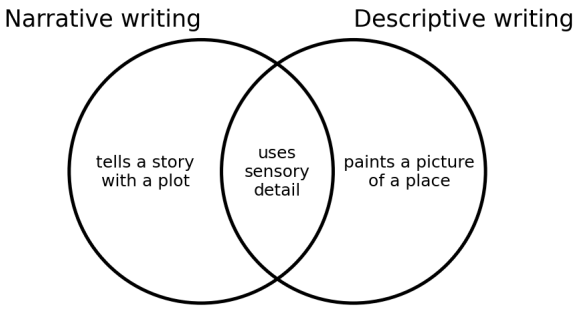
B The hiker stumbled along the trail

C The hiker did the trail

D The hiker was on the trail

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

15 **The diagram compares narrative writing and descriptive writing. According to the diagram, what do they share**



A telling a story with a plot

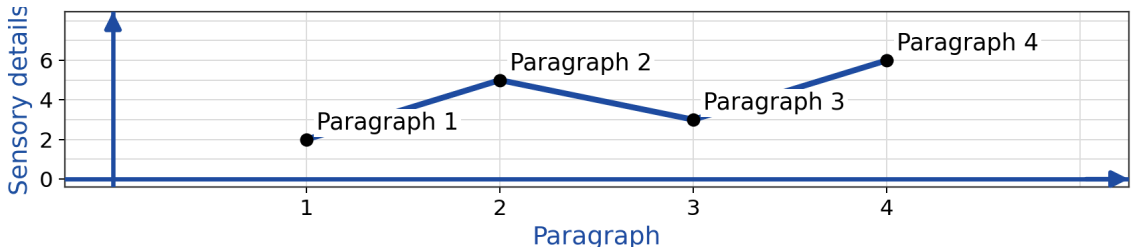
B painting a picture of a place

C using sensory detail

D using only dialogue

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

16 **The diagram shows the number of sensory details in each paragraph of a descriptive draft. Which paragraph uses the most sensory detail**



A Paragraph 1

B Paragraph 2

C Paragraph 3

D Paragraph 4

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

Reading II - Saturday Market

Use this reading for questions 17 to 18.

At the Saturday market, the air smelled of fresh bread and rain on warm stone. A farmer stacked red apples in neat rows while a bell rang from the church across the square, and shoppers called out greetings in three languages.

17 **According to Reading II, which senses does the market description appeal to**

A hearing only

B smell only

C smell, hearing, and sight

D taste and touch only

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

18 **According to Reading II, what helps the reader picture the market most**

A a summary of the history of markets

B concrete sensory details such as bread, apples, and the bell

C a statement that the market was nice

D a list of dates when markets were held

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

19 **A character who is selfish at the start of a story and generous at the end is an example of**

A a dynamic character

B a static character

C a flat character

D an antagonist

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

20 **A draft says: It was a nice place. Which revision gives the reader a clearer picture**

- **A** It was a very nice place indeed
- **B** Sunlight fell across the wooden tables and the smell of bread filled the room
- **C** Places can be nice in many ways
- **D** It was nice, nice, nice

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

21 **After studying a model description, a writer tries the model's structure, a wide view followed by close details, on a new topic. This shows the writer**

- **A** ignored the model completely
- **B** plagiarised the model's sentences
- **C** learned a technique from the model without copying it
- **D** copied the model's topic exactly

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

22 **A sailor battles a storm at sea to reach shore. This conflict is best described as character against**

- A society
- B nature
- C the character's own fears
- D another character

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

23 **Which opening is the strongest hook for a narrative**

- A Lighthouses are tall buildings near water
- B This story is about a girl and a lighthouse
- C The match went out twice before Mara tried again
- D There are many lighthouses in the world

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

24 **In a description of a gloomy forest, the word gloomy mainly helps to create**

A the number of trees in the forest

B the date of the story

C the name of the main character

D the mood of the scene

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

25 **A strong narrative ending usually**

A shows what changed and resolves the main conflict

B introduces a brand new conflict for the first time

C lists every event in the story again in order

D stops in the middle of a sentence

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

ANSWER KEY

1. A
2. D
3. C
4. D
5. C
6. D
7. A
8. C
9. A
10. D
11. A
12. B
13. A
14. B
15. C
16. D
17. C
18. B
19. A
20. B
21. C
22. B
23. C
24. D
25. A

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.