PART I: Reviewing for Errors

Please review the following pages and identify the errors you see. Errors are scored on a scale of 1-3 with the more obvious errors earning 3 points and the more nuanced errors earning 1 point.

Total Points on Test: 80
[Pages 30-31]

[A-head] Golden Mantella Frog
[Intro text] Golden mantella frogs are can be red orange, or yellow, and they are very poisonous.

[Body Text]
These frogs look like poison frogs, but they live on the other side of the world, on the African island of Madagascar.

Unlike most frogs, they lay their eggs on land instead of in water. Tadpoles reach water by wiggling around and finding it on their own or when rain washes them into streams.

[Burst head] Hip Hopper!
A group of frogs is called an *army*.

[Sidebar head] Ribbit!
The less toxic insects a golden mantella frog has access to, the less toxic it would be. Where there are a lots of people and buildings, there are fewer of these insects for them to eat.
[Pages 34-35]
[A-head] Spring Peeper
[Intro text] Spring peepers are tree frogs known for their high pitched “peeping” calls, often heard on spring nights.

[Body Text]
These frogs are tiny. They are about 1 in. (2.5 cm.) long. That’s a little shorter than a paperclip.

A male can make twenty peeping calls in just 1 minute. The louder and faster he sings, the

quicker he will find a mate.

When a male peeper makes it's calls, his vocal sacks grow to almost the size of its entire body.

[Sidebar head] Hip Hopper!
Some frog songs can be heard from about 1 mile (1.6 km) away.

[Sidebar head] Ribbit!
Although spring peepers more often eat crawling prey rather than flying ones, they will sometimes climb flowers like goldenrods to eat the insects that are attracted to the flowers.
[Pages 36-37]
[A-head] Amazon Milk Frog
[Intro text] The amazon rainforest is home to the Amazon milk frog.

[Body Text]
These frogs live high in tress. When they feel threatened they release a milky poison. The frogs rub the poison all over their bodies. Then, if a predator eats them, the predator will become sick.

The milky coating also acts as sun screen. That protects them from the harsh sun that beats down on their treetop homes.

[Burst head] Hip Hopper!
Amazon milk frogs' toe pads that are so strong, only one pad is needed from the frog to cling to a leaf.

[Sidebar head] Ribbit!
A female Amazon milk frog can lay up to two thousand eggs! Those eggs then hatch into tadpoles after only one day, and grow into adult frogs after only three weeks.
[Pages 40-41]
[A-head] Amazon Horned Frog
[Intro text] Amazon horned frogs are not good jumpers. Their bodies are just too flat.

[Body Text]
When these frog open their large mouths wide, they look like the mouths of the video game character Pac-Man™.

The Amazon horned frog is an ambush-predator. That means it sits under leaves with just its head peeking out. When it spots its meal, it strikes! Amazon horned frogs have very strong, sticky tongues and long teeth to help grab, hold, and eat their prey.

[Burst head] Hip Hopper!
Frogs drink water through their skin.

[Sidebar head] Ribit!
The tadpoles of Amazon Horned frogs can call out when they are in trouble. They do so by pushing air out of their newly forming lungs.
[Pages 46-47]
[A-head] Marsh Frog
[Intro text] Marsh frogs don't often stray farther than 6ft., or 1.8 m, from their water source— that's about as long as an adult human male is tall.

[Body Text]
Those frogs stay near water to avoid predators. If they see a snake or eagret coming, they can Marsh frogs have been spotted eating insects on the back of buffalo that come near their watery home. The frogs get their meal, and the buffalo get clean.

[Burst head] Hip Hopper
Scientists recently discovered that many - and possibly all - frogs glow in the dark!

[Sidebar head] Ribbit!
Marsh frogs are special because they can live in **brackish water**. Brackish water is salty, but not as salty as ocean water. It is often found where freshwater from a river meets the salty ocean.
PART II: Reviewing for Word Choice, Sentence Complexity, and Flow

A significant part of working with Scholastic is an understanding of our audience—namely, kids! It is important for a copy editor to be able to identify if and when a sentence or paragraph might be worded in a way that's difficult for children, or the opposite, a sentence that's not doing a good job getting a point across because it's trying to simplify language too much.

With these next few example sentences, please tell us:

A) If you would change the way the sentence is written
B) How you would do so

Because this re-writing by definition can't be as objective as the rest of the test, it won't be "scored" in the same way—there is no point system. However, your suggested changes will be evaluated in the same way we would evaluate any sentence in a manuscript that crosses our desks.

These sentences are taken from a book for ages 5+.

1) When not in the water, the African clawed frog crawls to navigate its environment. The large claws on its back feet also aid this frog in tearing apart its prey; it uses smaller, clawless front feet to deposit food in its mouth.

A) I would rewrite parts of this sentence.
B) I would remove "to navigate its environment" from the first sentence, as it is not necessary for a child to understand that a frog crawls when it is not in the water. I would insert a period instead of a semicolon after "prey", and capitalize "it". Breaking this sentence into two sentences makes it easier for young readers to process and understand.

2) When tadpoles hatch, they have a tail and breathe with gills. As they get bigger, they grow legs and lungs. Young froglets lose their tails and move out of the water. Then they become adult frogs. Now they have a slimy covering on their skin!

A) I would rewrite parts of these sentences.
B) I would rewrite “Young froglets lose their tails and move out of the water”, and replace it with “Once young froglets lose their tails and move out of the water, they become adult frogs.” This improves sentence flow and information clarity.

3) The poisons in a blue poison frog are bad enough to hurt and kill its predators. These frogs make their poisons from the bugs they eat. Each kind of poison frog makes poison differently because they eat different bugs.

A) I would rewrite these sentences.
B) I would replace “The poisons in a blue poison frog are bad enough to hurt and kill its predators” with “The toxins in a blue poison frog are strong enough to hurt or kill its predators.” I feel that this rewording makes the sentence flow better while also clarifying small details. I would also rewrite “Each kind of poison frog makes poison differently because they eat different bugs” to “Each kind of poison frog makes a different type of poison because they eat different kinds of bugs”. This makes the sentence more readable and clear for children as it progresses forward in simple steps, clearly explaining how each part of the sentence unfolds and relates to the one before.