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Student Grade: 07

Session 2: English/Language Arts - Question 1

Questions and Answers

Writing Activity

Final Draft

Connecting Teens and Seniors

Activities that promote a connection between teenagers and senior citizens are gaining popularity across the nation. In New York, for example, a group of teens and senior citizens created and performed a play.

What are the benefits of pairing older and younger people? What activities could your school provide to bring teens and senior citizens together in a positive way?

Write a persuasive essay to your principal proposing an activity that would involve senior citizens and students at your school. Describe the activity in detail and explain the benefits of the activity for the school, the students, and the senior citizens.

Be sure to include

- a clear description of the activity
- an explanation of the benefits of the activity for the school, the students, and the senior citizens
- an introduction, a body, and a conclusion to your persuasive essay

Answer: You may wonder "What are the benefits of pairing senior citizens and teens?" well, there are a few. One of the few is that the teens can give elders new technology and laugh at them not knowing how to use it. Another benefit is that it can teach the teens how to deal with people complaining all the time. The students could learn about how back in the "good ol' days" everything was much harder. To help teens and senior citizens work together, the school could create an activity that lets teens help the elderly. The teens get to laugh and the senior citizens get more done. The teens could help with many things. They could help senior citizens with technology, moving things, walking, driving, and many other things! This would also make the school look much more generous!

The River Guide

by Roderick J. Robison



What events in the story demonstrate Senhor Pereira's changing opinion of Pedro? Support your answer with details from the story.

Answer: Pedro starts heading a different way. Several minutes pass without any fish. Eventually fish bite, and continue biting, and are bigger than the previous trip.

Pedro's father turned on the bedroom light. "Wake up," he whispered. "Your brother is not feeling well, and I need you to take his place on the river this morning."

"Yes, Father," replied Pedro as he wiped the sleep from his eyes.

He quickly dressed and downed a breakfast of papaya slices, sweet bread, and passionfruit juice. Full of excitement, he walked outside into the grayness of the predawn and followed his father down the trail to the tea-colored São Francisco River, the largest river in northeastern Brazil.

Wisps of mist hovered over the water, and a white egret¹ lifted off the riverbank. At the small dock, six pescadores² were already milling around the two aluminum outboard motorboats tied to the pilings.

"Good morning," Pedro's father greeted the fishermen.

A number of guides along the river catered to vacationing fishermen, and Pedro's father and older brother, Marcos, were two of

the best. They had an uncanny knack for finding fish. Many of their customers returned year after year; these six were among them.

It was a proud day for Pedro . . . his big chance. He'd wanted to be a guide like his father and brother for as long as he could remember. Today would mark his first trip as a river guide.

Pedro and his father gassed the outboard motors and sorted tackle while the tallest of the pescadores, Senhor Pereira, divided the group and assigned three men to each boat. He seemed to be the spokesman for the party. After everyone had boarded, Senhor Pereira hopped into the bow of Pedro's boat. He raised his eyebrows at the sight of a boy in the stern.

"Where is Marcos?" he asked. "I thought he would be guiding us."

"Marcos is ill today," Pedro's father replied. "My younger son will be taking his place.?"

"He is just a boy," said Senhor Pereira. "We were expecting an experienced guide. We're paying you a lot of money."

"You won't be disappointed," assured Pedro's father. "My son knows the river very well." It was true. Pedro had grown up along the riverbank. He fished nearly every day and was familiar with the river's many eddies³, riffles⁴, and coves.

"H'm." Senhor Pereira frowned.

The pride Pedro had felt minutes before suddenly vanished to be replaced by nervousness, a nervousness that came with his new responsibility. He would need to find fish for the pescadores-a lot of fish. In the past, when he'd gone out on his own, it did not matter if the fish were scarce. Today was different. One bad trip would mean the loss of paying customers and much-needed income. There were many other guides to choose from along the river.

Pedro and his father pulled the motors to life and cast off. Following his father's lead, Pedro nosed his boat out into the middle of the water. The two of them steered the boats upstream, side by side. The sun was just beginning to show over the trees to the east.

Pedro's father signaled that he was heading to the right, toward an eddy by the river's bank. Pedro nodded and continued motoring upstream.

"Shouldn't we follow him?" Senhor Pereira inquired.

"We could," replied Pedro, "but I have another spot in mind."

"I hope you know what you're doing."

So do I, Pedro thought to himself.

Three miles farther upstream, Pedro slowed down. A few moments later, he turned off the motor, and the boat drifted toward the water below a dam. No other fishermen were in sight.

"Your brother took us into the coves the last time," shouted Senhor Pereira over the thunder of the water. "The same coves you passed by on the way here. That's where we got our fish last trip. This water is too rough!"

"The coves are good when the conditions are right," Pedro replied.

"But the water is lower than usual right now, and the fish in the coves will be skittish. The swifter current here should be in our favor. It will churn the bait and attract fish."

"Time will tell," said Senhor Pereira.

Yes it will, Pedro thought, praying that his hunch would prove accurate. Catching fish was never a sure thing. Pedro's days as a river guide would be short-lived if they didn't find some fish soon. He'd been asking his father to let him help guide on the river for so long. Until today, the answer had always been "You are still too young."

Pedro dropped the anchor, and the pescadores baited up. Soon three lines were in the water. Pedro studied the rod tips . . . and the scowl on Senhor Pereira's face. Several minutes passed without a strike. Senhor Pereira grew increasingly impatient, his face reddening.

"I say we try one of the coves," he bellowed. "There's nothing biting-"

At that moment, the tip of Senhor Pereira's rod bobbed, and then pulsed under the strain of a heavy fish. The man's face creased in a grin. As he reeled in, the other two pescadores' rods pulsed too. All three had suddenly caught fish! For the next two hours the men hauled in long-whiskered cascudos. Even Pedro couldn't believe how big the catfish were.

Back at the dock that afternoon, Pedro discovered that his boat was the more successful of the two—far more successful. Senhor Pereira proudly displayed his stringer of fish to the others and raved about his guide.

That night at the dinner table, Pedro's father said, "I think there's going to be a problem the next time those six pescadores come."

"Oh?" replied Pedro, confused. He thought everything had turned out so well.

"Yes," his father continued with a grin. "All six of them want to go in your boat next time!"

¹ **egret:** a small, mostly white bird that has long drooping ornamental feathers

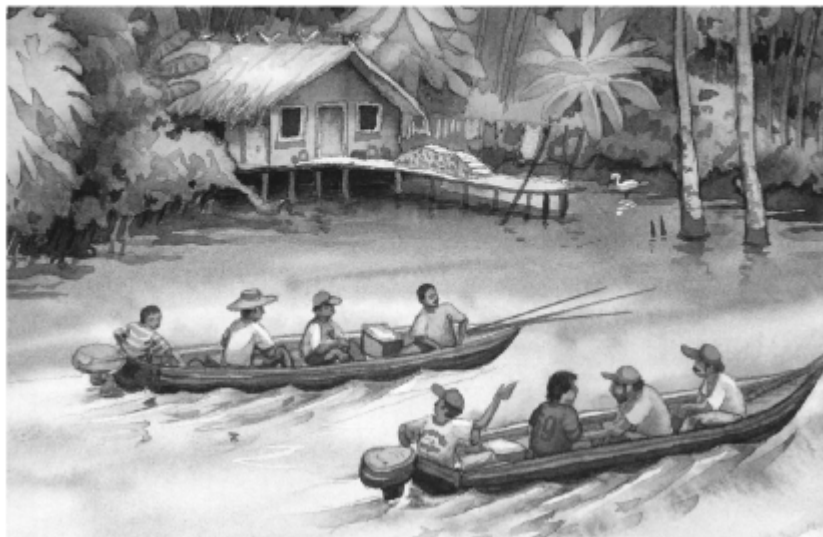
² **pescadores:** Spanish word for fishermen

³ **eddies:** small whirls in the water

⁴ **riffles:** an area of rough water caused by submerged rocks or a sandbar

The River Guide

by Roderick J. Robison



How does the author show that Pedro's father is confident his son will be an effective guide? Support your answer with details from the story.

Answer: Pedro's father tried to assure the pescadores that Pedro would do good.

Pedro's father turned on the bedroom light. "Wake up," he whispered. "Your brother is not feeling well, and I need you to take his place on the river this morning."

"Yes, Father," replied Pedro as he wiped the sleep from his eyes.

He quickly dressed and downed a breakfast of papaya slices, sweet bread, and passionfruit juice. Full of excitement, he walked outside into the grayness of the predawn and followed his father down the trail to the tea-colored São Francisco River, the largest river in northeastern Brazil.

Wisps of mist hovered over the water, and a white egret¹ lifted off the riverbank. At the small dock, six pescadores² were already milling around the two aluminum outboard motorboats tied to the pilings.

"Good morning," Pedro's father greeted the fishermen.

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the best. They had an uncanny knack for finding fish. Many of their customers returned year after year; these six were among them.

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"Where is Marcos?" he asked. "I thought he would be guiding us."

"Marcos is ill today," Pedro's father replied. "My younger son will be taking his place.?"

"He is just a boy," said Senhor Pereira. "We were expecting an experienced guide. We're paying you a lot of money."

"You won't be disappointed," assured Pedro's father. "My son knows the river very well." It was true. Pedro had grown up along the riverbank. He fished nearly every day and was familiar with the river's many eddies³, riffles⁴, and coves.

"H'm." Senhor Pereira frowned.

The pride Pedro had felt minutes before suddenly vanished to be replaced by nervousness, a nervousness that came with his new responsibility. He would need to find fish for the pescadores-a lot of fish. In the past, when he'd gone out on his own, it did not matter if the fish were scarce. Today was different. One bad trip would mean the loss of paying customers and much-needed income. There were many other guides to choose from along the river.

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"We could," replied Pedro, "but I have another spot in mind."

"I hope you know what you're doing."

So do I, Pedro thought to himself.

Three miles farther upstream, Pedro slowed down. A few moments later, he turned off the motor, and the boat drifted toward the water below a dam. No other fishermen were in sight.

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The River Guide

by Roderick J. Robison



One of the themes in "The River Guide" is the importance of believing in oneself. Explain how Pedro shows that he believes in himself. Support your answer with details from the story.

Answer: Pedro goes his own way, because he believes it will have better results, and isn't afraid to be the guide.

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Writing Activity

Camilla Smith's father had taught her that girls could do anything that boys could. When she was 13, she asked her father if she could take boxing lessons. Little did she know that her decision would eventually lead her to qualify as a member of the United States Olympic women's boxing team.

When she was 16, Camilla competed at the Olympic trials for women's boxing. Her qualification match was against a United States champion, but Camilla didn't let that bother her. She stayed calm and focused throughout the match and ended up winning the title of Outstanding Fighter. Camilla credits her confidence and determination for her success as a boxer. With her fighting spirit, it is likely that Camilla will have a long and successful career as a boxer.

Camilla was successful in part because of her confidence and determination. Write about a person, real or imaginary, who has been successful because he or she possesses these same qualities.

Final Draft

Answer: One person that is succesful because she is confident and determined is Marissa Mayer. She's from a small town in Wisconsin, and eventually became CEO of Yahoo, Inc. She considers herself a "geek" and is responsible for the new Yahoo! deisgn. She graduated from Stanford with a degree in AI to become the 13th employee at Google, and their first female engineer. She eventually become a big deal within Google, and became a Sillicon Valley star. Google eventually started making her less important, causing Marissa to look for different employment. She found Yahoo, Inc., which was looking for a new CEO. She was a perfect fit. She had worked at Google for several years, and was responsible for suceses such as Gmail. She is one of the main reasons Yahoo became irrelevant. She is now also one of the reasons Yahoo! is slowley becoming relevant again. She's lead Yahoo! through over 5 aquisitions and aquhires in about 2 years. She has also transformed the work environment. Engineers actually want to work at Yahoo now. Marissa has also made some controversial decisions, but she is confident enough to continue supporting them.

Session 4: Social Studies - Question 1

The map below shows some natural resources in Asia that are used in manufacturing industries.

Some Natural Resources of Asia 2006



KEY

Coal	Gold
Copper	Iron
Oil	

Questions and Answers

The economy of Japan relies heavily on manufacturing. Using information from the map, identify a resource that Japan would need to buy from another country in order to engage in manufacturing. Explain how this resource would support manufacturing.

Resource needed:

Answer: Iron

How this resource would support manufacturing:

Answer: It could be used to build many things, from electronic to household objects (such as tables)

Based on the information on the map, explain why it is important for Japan to trade with other countries in order to engage in manufacturing.

Answer: It is important for Japan to trade, because Japan doesn't have every resource it needs. It can trade resources only found in Japan for resources only found in other areas

Session 4: Social Studies - Question 2

Questions and Answers

Look at the chart below.

Country	GDP per Capita*	Literacy Rate
Egypt	\$6,500	71.4%
South Africa	\$11,000	86.4%
Sudan	\$3,000	61.1%

Source: CIA, *The World Factbook*, 2011

*GDP per capita is the Gross Domestic Product per person.

According to the information in the chart, which country MOST LIKELY has the highest standard of living?

Answer: South Africa

Explain why this country has the highest standard of living.

Answer: It makes the most money and has more people that can get better jobs.

Explain ONE way a country could improve its standard of living besides increasing educational opportunities for citizens.

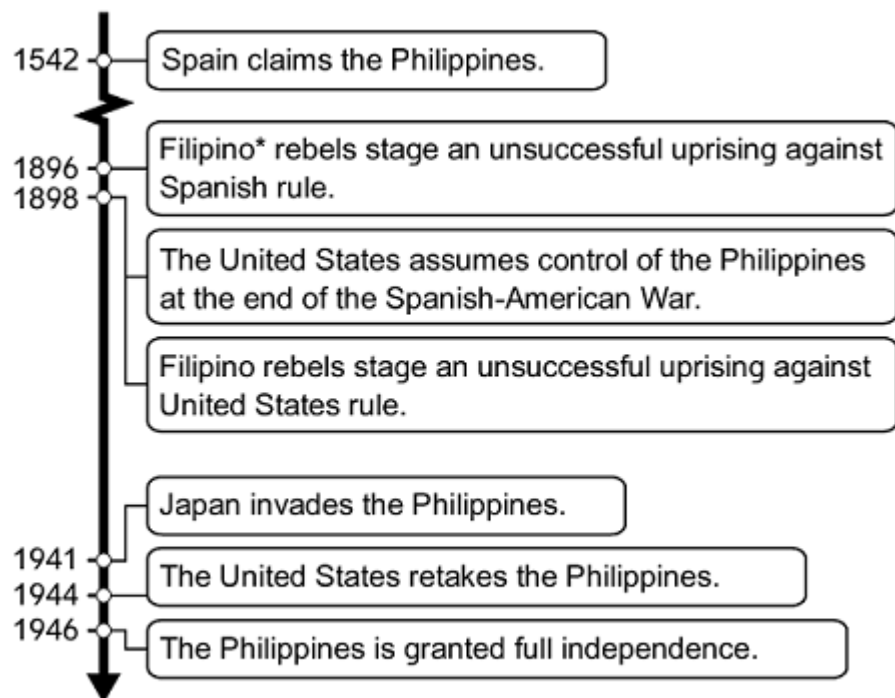
Answer: A country could create more government funded places.

Session 4: Social Studies - Question 3

Questions and Answers

Look at the timeline below.

The Philippines' Road to Independence



*Filipinos: people of the Philippines

According to the timeline, both the United States and Japan controlled the Philippines at different times during the 1940s. Why were the Philippines important to Japan and/or the United States during this time period?

Answer: Both countries could use the extra land for mining, getting a higher population, and having quick access to the surrounding areas.

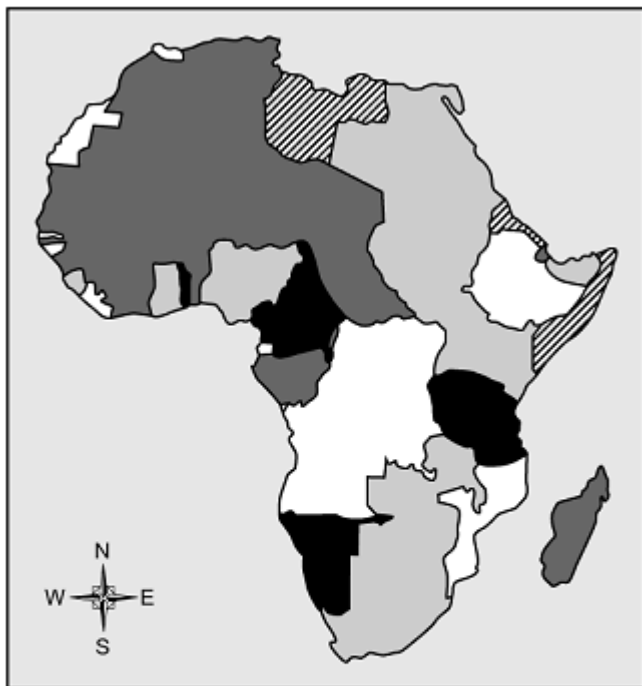
According to the timeline and what you have learned, why was achieving independence MOST LIKELY a positive experience for Filipinos?

Answer: It was most likely a positive experience because they could control their own government, and not be controlled by anyone else.

Session 4: Social Studies - Question 4

The map below shows European colonies in Africa.

European Colonies in Africa—1914



KEY

France	Great Britain
Germany	Italy
Other	

Questions and Answers

Explain TWO different reasons European countries colonized Africa.

1)

Answer: Power

2)

Answer: Land

Describe TWO different effects of European colonization of Africa.

1)

Answer: Africans may have a less favorable opinion of Europe.

2)

Answer: European countries gain more power.