

PART 2—WRITING

Unit 3—Responding to Texts

Lesson 10: Listen Up!

New York ELA Practice, pages 118 and 119

Teacher’s Note: When your students are prepared, read the following story to them. You will read the story twice. Instruct students to listen carefully the first time the story is read. On the second read, instruct students to take notes in the space provided in their workbooks.

How Mowgli Joined the Wolf Family

adapted by Robyn Winchell

from *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling

It was seven o’clock on a very warm evening when Father Wolf woke from his day’s rest. He scratched himself, yawned, and stretched. Mother Wolf lay with her nose dropped across her four squealing cubs. The moon shone into the mouth of the cave where they all lived.

“Come, Mother Wolf. It is time to hunt again.” They went to the mouth of the cave and sniffed the night breeze. Standing in the cave entrance, they watched the moon rise. Before long, Father Wolf heard the dry, angry whine of a tiger who had caught nothing.

“The fool!” said Father Wolf. “It is not wise to begin a night’s hunt with that noise! The tiger cannot sneak up on a wild animal if it makes such a whine!”

“It is not animals he hunts tonight,” said Mother Wolf. “It is Man.”

The bushes in front of the cave rustled a little, and Father Wolf got ready to spring. Then he stopped.

“A man cub,” he said. “Look!”

Directly in front of him, holding on to a low branch, stood a baby boy who could just walk. He looked into the eyes of Father Wolf and laughed.

“Is that a man’s cub?” asked Mother Wolf. “I have never seen one. Bring it here.”

Father Wolf’s jaws closed on the boy ever so gently. Without leaving so much as a tooth mark, he picked the boy up in his mouth and laid him down among the cubs.

“How little and how bold!” said Mother Wolf softly. The baby was pushing his way between the cubs to get close to the mother’s warm body. “And so this is a man’s cub. Was there ever a wolf family that could brag of a man’s cub among its children?”

“I have heard of such a thing, but never in our pack or in our times,” said Father Wolf. “He is altogether without hair, and I could easily hurt him with my strength. But see, he looks at me and is not afraid.”

Workbook Answers

Just then the moonlight was blocked out of the cave. Shere Khan, the great tiger, pushed his head into the darkness and said, “I want my dinner. Give me the man cub. It is mine.”

“Wolves are a free people,” said Father Wolf. “We take orders from the Head of the Pack, not from some striped killer of cattle! The man cub is our cub now. Go away from this cave!”

The tiger’s roar filled the cave with thunder. Mother Wolf shook herself clear of the cubs and sprang forward. Her eyes were like two green moons in the darkness, facing the blazing eyes of Shere Khan.

“The man cub is mine. He shall come to no harm. He shall live to run with the Pack and hunt with the Pack!”

Years ago, when Mother Wolf ran with the Pack, she was known for her strength and bravery. The tiger might have faced Father Wolf, but he could not stand up against Mother Wolf when she was protecting her young.

Shere Khan backed his head out of the cave, growling softly. Mother Wolf paused and blinked at Father Wolf. She threw herself down, panting, among the cubs.

“The man cub came to us alone, at night, hungry, cold, and as helpless as our own cubs,” said Mother Wolf. “Yet, he was not afraid. We will keep him and protect him.” Then she curled her warm body around her tiny children—man cub and wolf cub, alike.

Father Wolf watched his family for a moment, then trotted out into the moonlight to begin his hunt for food.

Lesson 11: Writing Out Answers

Pages 121–124

1. Responses will vary. Possible response: The girls prepare for their camping trip by practicing putting up their tent.
 2. Responses will vary. Possible response: After the girls arrive at the campground, they realize they forgot to bring their tent.
 3. Responses will vary. Possible response: Brenda, Carlotta, and Carmen are going on a camping trip with some other girls. They want to be the first ones to get their tent set up, so they practice setting up their tent all week before the trip. When the day of the trip arrives, the girls get to the campground only to realize they left their tent in Carlotta’s backyard.
 4. Responses will vary. Possible response: Grandma wants to smile because she thinks it’s funny that, after spending so much time preparing for their trip, the girls forgot their tent. The girls were sure they’d be the first ones to get their tent set up, but because they forgot their tent, they’ll probably be the last.
 5. Responses will vary. Possible response: At the beginning of the story, the girls are excited for the trip. They practice setting up their tent, and on the drive to the campground, they talk about how much fun it will be to be the first ones to set up their tent. At the end of the story, the girls are most likely disappointed because they forgot their tent. Carlotta and Brenda look at Carmen “with frowns on their faces.”
- Responses will vary. Students should complete the organizer with two main events that fall between the first and last event in the chart.

Listening Passage for New York ELA Practice Test Form A

Circus Family

by Betsy Allen Smythe

Amanda felt great excitement as the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus returned home for its winter break. This winter, Amanda would learn how to play a new role in her family's acrobatic act.

Her sister Emily had grown too old for her place in the act. Amanda's family was a group of acrobats. They would tumble and jump off each other's hands, doing flips in the air. They would form a pyramid, with four members of the family on the bottom, three on the next row, then two, and finally Emily on top. As their pyramid fell to the ground, Emily would do a double flip and land on her feet, hands held high. By next spring's circus season, Amanda would be doing that double flip under the main tent, or the big top, of the circus.

The family had been part of the circus since 1933. They had previously performed in a smaller circus. Joining the Ringling Brothers meant they had come to the top of the circus world. That was six years ago. Amanda was then only two. Now it would be her turn in the spotlight. Emily was going to learn the high wire, working with another group. But first she would show Amanda how to be an acrobat.

The first week was hard. When Amanda got to the top of the pyramid, she was afraid. Her brother Harold caught her in the beginning. Harold was 14, and he was big and strong. He showed Amanda how to step on his hand, and then jump high, doing a back flip. He also would place 12-year-old Frank on his shoulders. Then they would lift Amanda to Frank's shoulders. On the given signal, Frank would jump off Harold and do a roll, while Amanda fell into Harold's arms. That trick seemed easy. But doing the double flip off the fallen pyramid was another matter.

Emily kept telling her sister it was easy. But the more Emily said it was easy, the more frightened Amanda became. By the second week, Amanda could jump off the pile and do one flip. Landing, though, was hard.

Once, Amanda woke up in the middle of the night and cried out, "Papa, I don't think I can do it!" But she had to do it. Papa was counting on her.

Two weeks before the circus was to begin its spring season, Amanda was still having problems. Then one night she had a dream. In it, she was falling. In her dream, she tucked her knees under her chin and did a double roll. Landing neatly on her feet, she threw her arms up in triumph.

She woke up the next morning feeling like she was ready. During practice, Amanda jumped easily off Harold's hand and did a perfect flip. Standing on Frank's shoulders, when he jumped to the ground and tumbled, Amanda fell into Harold's arms like she was born to do this. Finally, the family made the pyramid. Amanda climbed to the top and stood. She thought of her dream. The pyramid crumbled beneath her. And Amanda did a perfect double flip.

"Beautiful," Papa said. "Amanda, you are ready for the big top!"

Listening Passage for New York ELA Practice Test Form B

White Cloud

a Native-American folktale

retold by Morris Weaver

An old chief lived in a village with his three daughters. One of his daughters was much younger than the other two. She was beautiful and gentle, and she was loved much more than her sisters by everyone in the village.

For this reason, her older sisters were jealous and treated her in a cruel way. They made her wear robes that were old and eaten by moths. They cut her long black hair into jagged clumps with a bone knife. Then they smeared her face with ashes from the fire. But White Cloud kept her sorrow to herself and went about her chores with a gentle heart.

Like most of the other girls in the village, the two older daughters wanted to marry Strong Wind, a powerful brave who could make himself invisible. It was well known that Strong Wind planned to marry the first maiden who could see him as he came home in the evening. Many had looked, but no maiden had yet seen him.

Above all else, Strong Wind wanted a maiden who told the truth. The young man used a clever trick to test each girl's truthfulness. He had his sister walk along the shore with any girl who wanted to win him. Strong Wind's sister, Harvest Moon, could see him even when he was invisible. As her brother came home, she would ask the maidens if they could see him. Eager to be the wife of Strong Wind, they would say, "Yes. Oh, yes. I can see him." And Strong Wind, knowing they spoke without truth, would remain invisible and forget about them.

It happened one evening that the chief's two older daughters joined Strong Wind's sister along the shore. As the sun went down, Harvest Moon asked them, "Do you see Strong Wind coming home?"

"Oh, yes. We see him," the sisters said, jumping with excitement. Again, Strong Wind remained invisible, and the two older daughters went home with great disappointment.

The following day, White Cloud met Harvest Moon along the shore. She was determined to see Strong Wind.

Strong Wind's sister spoke kindly and gently to the girl as they walked along the great water. Soon Harvest Moon asked, "Do you see Strong Wind coming home?"

White Cloud answered with great sadness, "I'm trying so hard, but no, I don't see Strong Wind."

White Cloud had spoken the truth. As she spoke, a great wind tugged at her robe and tousled her hair. Sand swirled up from the shore line, and out of the swirl came the handsome form of Strong Wind. He took her hand, and as he did, her robe was changed to softest doeskin, her face was clean, and her shiny black hair grew long and waved in the breeze. The very next day, the young girl became Strong Wind's wife.

When Strong Wind heard of the cruel things White Cloud's sisters had done, he used his great power to turn them into aspen trees and to root them to the ground. And since that day, whenever Strong Wind and White Cloud approach, the leaves of all aspen trees shiver and tremble in fear.