

ELA Grade 7 Unit 3 - Print

1

Excerpt from *Tangerine*

by Edward Bloor

Friday, August 18

For Mom the move from Texas to Florida was a military operation, like the many moves she had made as a child. We had our orders. We had our supplies. We had a timetable. If it had been necessary to do so, we would have driven the eight hundred miles from our old house to our new house straight through, without stopping at all. We would have refueled the Volvo while hurtling along at seventy-five miles per hour next to a moving convoy-refueling truck.

Fortunately this wasn't necessary. Mom had calculated that we could leave at 6:00 A.M. central daylight time, stop three times at twenty minutes per stop, and still arrive at our destination at 9:00 P.M. eastern daylight time.

I guess that's challenging if you're the driver. It's pretty boring if you're just sitting there, so I slept on and off until, in the early evening, we turned off Interstate 10 somewhere in western Florida.

This scenery was not what I had expected at all, and I stared out the window, fascinated by it. We passed mile after mile of green fields overflowing with tomatoes and onions and watermelons. I suddenly had this crazy feeling like I wanted to bolt from the car and run through the fields until I couldn't run anymore. I said to Mom, "This is Florida? This is what it looks like?"

Mom laughed. "Yeah. What did you think it looked like?"

"I don't know. A beach with a fifty-story condo on it."

"Well, it looks like that, too. Florida's a huge place. We'll be living in an area that's more like this one. There are still a lot of farms around."

"What do they grow? I bet they grow tangerines."

"No. Not too many. Not anymore. This is too far north for citrus trees. Every few years they get a deep freeze that wipes them all out. Most of the citrus growers here have sold off their land to developers."

"Yeah? And what do the developers do with it?"

"Well ... they develop it. They plan communities with nice houses, and schools, and industrial parks. They create jobs—construction jobs, teaching jobs, civil engineering jobs—like your father's."

But once we got farther south and crossed into Tangerine County, we did start to see groves of citrus trees, and they were an amazing sight. They were perfect. Thousands upon thousands of trees in the red glow of sundown, perfectly shaped and perfectly aligned, vertically and horizontally, like squares in a million-square grid.

Mom pointed. "Look. Here comes the first industrial park."

I looked up ahead and saw the highway curve off, left and right, into spiral exit ramps, like rams' horns. Low white buildings with black windows stretched out in both directions. They were all identical.

Mom said, "There's our exit. Right up there."

I looked ahead another quarter mile and saw another pair of spiral ramps, but I couldn't see much else. A fine brown dust was now blowing across the highway, drifting like snow against the shoulders and swirling up into the air.

We turned off Route 27, spiraled around the rams' horns, and headed east. Suddenly the fine brown dirt became mixed with thick black smoke.

Mom said, "Good heavens! Look at that."

I looked to where she was pointing, up to the left, out in a field, and my heart sank. The black smoke was pouring from a huge bonfire of trees. Citrus trees.

I said, "Why are they doing that? Why are they just burning them up?"

"To clear the land."

"Well, why don't they build houses out of them? Or homeless shelters? Or something?"

Mom shook her head. "I don't think they can build with them. I don't think those trees have any use other than for fruit." She smiled. "You never hear people bragging that their dining-room set is solid grapefruit, do you?"

I didn't smile back.

Which detail from the passage shows how the narrator feels about the destruction of the natural world?

A) This scenery was not what I had expected at all, and I stared out the window, fascinated by it.

- B) I looked to where she was pointing, up to the left, out into a field, and my heart sank. The black smoke was pouring from a huge bonfire of trees.
- C) "Well ... they develop it. They plan communities with nice houses, and schools, and industrial parks. They create job—construction jobs, teaching jobs, civil engineering jobs—like your father's."
- D) "No. Not too many. Not anymore. This is too far north for citrus trees. Every few years they get a deep freeze that wipes them all out. Most of the citrus growers here have sold off their land to developers."

2

Part A:

In the excerpt from *Tangerine*, vivid descriptions of the setting develop the narrator's point of view by

- A) drawing attention to his ignorance and revealing how little he actually knows about Florida.
- B) emphasizing how foreign Florida seems to him, which supports his impression that he is unwelcome there.
- C) describing a space where he can organize ideas and imagine possibilities as he works through problems in his head.
- D) establishing tension between the natural surroundings and developed land, which causes emotional tension inside him.

Which excerpt **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A) For Mom the move from Texas to Florida was a military operation, like the many moves she had made as a child. We had our orders. We had our supplies.
- B) We would have refueled the Volvo while hurtling along at seventy-five miles per hour next to a moving convoy-refueling truck. Fortunately this wasn't necessary.
- C) I guess that's challenging if you're the driver. It's pretty boring if you're just sitting there, so I slept on and off until, in the early evening, we turned off Interstate 10 somewhere in western Florida.
- D) I looked up ahead and saw the highway curve off, left and right, into spiral exit ramps, like rams' horns. Low white buildings with black windows stretched out in both directions.

3

In the first paragraph of the excerpt from *Tangerine*, the author most likely uses the phrase "military operation" in order to

- A) give the reader a clue about a conflict that will eventually unfold in the novel.
- B) draw a comparison that emphasizes to readers Mom's efficient approach to moving.
- C) build suspense, warning readers about Mom's strict and calculated demands.
- D) establish the setting of the novel, grounding readers in a particular place and time.

4

Part A:

Which statement **best** explains how Mom's point of view differs from the narrator's at the end of the excerpt from *Tangerine*?

- A) Mom is thrilled to begin new adventures in Florida, while the narrator dreads the thought of having to adapt to life in a new place.
- B) Mom makes a joke, while the narrator appears to be truly disturbed by the sight of the burning trees.
- C) Mom appreciates the industrial development of the region, while the narrator prefers its old rural landscapes and orchards of citrus trees.
- D) Mom is surprised to learn that many different kinds of communities and environments exist in Florida, while the narrator fails to notice this altogether.

Part B:

Which evidence from the excerpt of *Tangerine* **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A) Suddenly the fine brown dirt became mixed with thick black smoke. Mom said, "Good heavens! Look at that."
- B) I said, "Why are they doing that? Why are they just burning them up?" "To clear the land."
- C) Mom shook her head. "I don't think they can build with them. I don't think those trees have any use other than for fruit."
- D) "You never hear people bragging that their dining-room set is solid grapefruit, do you?" I didn't smile back.

5

Excerpt from *Desmond Tutu: A Biography*

by Steven Gish

On April 27, 1994, 62-year-old Desmond Tutu entered a polling station in Guguletu, South Africa, and voted for the first time in his adult life. Black South Africans had never before been allowed to vote in a democratic, national election. For generations, the country's citizens had been divided by apartheid, a legalized system of racial discrimination that benefited the white minority and severely restricted the black majority. Apartheid had been one of the most notorious systems of racial segregation the world had ever seen. The April 1994 election of Nelson Mandela as South Africa's first black president signaled that apartheid had finally ended.

Desmond Tutu dedicated his life to ending apartheid. Some called him South Africa's Martin Luther King, Jr. The son of a schoolteacher and a domestic worker, Tutu was an Anglican priest who rose to become general secretary of the South African Council of Churches and the first black South African archbishop of Cape Town. He had been one of the anti-apartheid movement's most visible and effective leaders. During his many travels, speeches, and sermons, he raised the world's consciousness about apartheid and convinced the world to help end it. He ceaselessly advocated nonviolent change when others resorted to violence. He sought to build bridges and promote dialogue between black and

white when others sought confrontation. In recognition of his efforts to end apartheid non-violently, Tutu was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984, one of the world's highest honors. His words had stirred a nation—and the world.

...

Despite rising black anger over racial injustice, Tutu refused to hate his oppressors. Whites were never his enemy, only the system of apartheid. Once apartheid finally crumbled, Tutu could have retired. Instead he continued to serve his country by agreeing to head South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This commission probed past human rights abuses under apartheid and offered forgiveness to those who confessed their misdeeds. Tutu believed that by chairing the commission, he could help heal the wounds of the past in a still racially divided nation.

...

Tutu's life has not been a series of inevitable triumphs. There were achievements and setbacks, conflicts and coalitions, and most of all, controversies. He was arrested, harassed, threatened, and at times vilified for his beliefs. But he refused to give up. He repeatedly assured all those who would listen that justice would triumph in the end. His passionate commitment to freedom and justice never wavered. In retirement, he continues to inspire the world.

Which excerpt from the passage is the **best** evidence of Tutu's commitment to achieving a peaceful end to apartheid?

- A) Apartheid had been one of the most notorious systems of racial segregation the world had ever seen.
- B) He had been one of the anti-apartheid movement's most visible and effective leaders.
- C) He ceaselessly advocated nonviolent change when others resorted to violence.
- D) Whites were never his enemy, only the system of apartheid.

Part A:

Which event from *Desmond Tutu: A Biography* **best** shows the impact in South Africa of both Tutu's and others' anti-apartheid crusades?

- A) Tutu was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984.
- B) Tutu voted in the election of Nelson Mandela in 1994.
- C) Tutu traveled the world giving speeches about nonviolent change.
- D) Tutu was able to take a position as an Anglican priest.

Part B:

Which sentence from the excerpt of *Desmond Tutu: A Biography* **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A) The April 1994 election of Nelson Mandela as South Africa's first black president "signaled that apartheid had finally ended."
- B) During his many travels, speeches, and sermons, he raised the world's consciousness about apartheid and convinced the world to help end it.
- C) The son of a schoolteacher and a domestic worker, Tutu was an Anglican priest who rose to become general secretary of the South African Council of Churches and the first black South African archbishop of Cape Town.
- D) In recognition of his efforts to end apartheid non-violently, Tutu was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984, one of the world's highest honors.

7

Read the sentences from the excerpt of *Desmond Tutu: A Biography*.

He repeatedly assured all those who would listen that justice would triumph in the end. His passionate commitment to freedom and justice never wavered. In retirement, he continues to inspire the world.

In the context of the excerpt, the word "wavered" most nearly means

- A) encountered problems.
- B) showed uncertainty.
- C) stopped abruptly.
- D) continued easily.

8

Read the excerpt from *Desmond Tutu: A Biography*.

Despite rising black anger over racial injustice, Tutu refused to hate his oppressors. Whites were never his enemy, only the system of apartheid.

What does this excerpt illustrate about Tutu's belief system?

- A) Tutu opposed criticizing the legal framework of apartheid.
- B) Tutu objected to discrimination and violence, even against those in power.
- C) Tutu encouraged people to direct their rage toward those in power.
- D) Tutu obeyed racist policies that were authorized by the government.

9

In the excerpt from *Desmond Tutu: A Biography*, the author's purpose is **most likely** to

- A)prove that Tutu led a pure and nonviolent life without conflict.
 B)provide facts about Tutu without judgments or opinions about his work.
 C)spread awareness and appreciation for Tutu's contributions to civil rights.
 D)to show how other political leaders influenced Tutu's beliefs about social equality.

10

Heading West

by John Krizek

What made America's early pioneers want to pull up stakes and embark on a perilous journey into the unknown West? Why did they sell their property, load their belongings onto wagons, say good-bye to their friends, and head for California?

Most of the first travelers to the West were farm families looking for land and opportunity. Later, during the gold rush, many went west with the hope of getting rich. Whatever the reasons, all of the early settlers of the American West were willing to take risks. They hoped to find a better life for themselves and their families.

...

Times were tough in the United States around 1840. Westward growth seemed to stall at the Missouri border, disease-carrying mosquitoes were thick along the rivers there, and the country was in a recession. People were ready for opportunities that would improve their lives. Some wagon parties headed for California from the

frontier in the early 1840s. However, back on the frontier, those planning new wagon train expeditions had no way of knowing the fate of these earlier groups.

Pioneers to California realized they had a limited amount of time to make their long journey. They could not leave before May, and they had to cross the mountains before the winter snows. If all went well, the travelers had six months to reach their destination. The trip was more than two thousand miles from frontier to coastline. During the trip, they would have to ford rivers and streams, hunt buffalo and antelope for food, stop for illness or broken wagons, be on the lookout for thieves, accommodate bad weather and other hazards, and remain near rivers so they could provide food and water for their animals.

...

Despite the hardships, early pioneers proved that it was possible to get wagons over the Sierra Nevada mountain range. The route the early pioneers took was used later by tens of thousands of western settlers, and also by the first railroad across the United States. Their first, exploring steps eventually became the tracks that other travelers followed, and their story embodies the American pioneer spirit.

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the idea that many people were unaware of what actually happened on a trip out West?

- A)Westward growth seemed to stall at the Missouri border, disease-carrying mosquitoes were thick along the rivers there, and the country was in a recession.
 B)Some wagon parties headed for California from the frontier in the early 1840s.
 C)However, back on the frontier, those planning new wagon train expeditions had no way of knowing the fate of these earlier groups.
 D)Despite the hardships, early pioneers proved that it was possible to get wagons over the Sierra Nevada mountain range.

11

Read the sentences from the excerpt of "Heading West."

What made America's early pioneers want to pull up stakes and embark on a perilous journey into the unknown West? Why did they sell their property, load their belongings onto wagons, say good-bye to their friends, and head for California?

In the context of the excerpt, the phrase "embark on" most nearly means

- A)step into
 B)start
 C)board
 D)prepare for

12

Based on "Heading West," how did the early pioneers of westward expansion in the 1840s influence those who came after them?

- A) They mapped cross-country routes which helped others who wanted to settle in the West.
- B) They gained control of gold mines across California, shattering prospects for future travelers.
- C) They sent thieves to scare off approaching wagon parties, preventing other settlers from claiming western land.
- D) They made cross-country expeditions easier by warning future travelers about the dangers they were likely to meet on the trail.

13

Based on "Heading West," which **three** statements **best** describe why early American pioneers traveled to the West?

- ☐ to acquire new land
- ☐ in hopes of becoming rich
- ☐ to receive a better education
- ☐ in search of work opportunities
- ☐ to explore land along the coastline
- ☐ as part of a workforce to build railroads

14

A Day on the Trail

by Jerry Miller

The sun has not yet risen, but Mrs. Keegan is awake already and starting her breakfast fire. The other women in this wagon train of 15 families also are out of bed. The two men who had guarded the cattle, horses, sheep,

mules, and oxen during the night are herding the animals back to camp. The animals must be guarded constantly to prevent them from stampeding, being stolen, or wandering off and getting lost.

By the time the sun comes up, the rest of the travelers also are awake. Breakfast consists of coffee, milk, bacon, and biscuits. After eating, it is time to clean up, milk the

cover the wagons, and harness the teams. The two men who will serve as today's scout and hunter ride off on their horses.

Whips crack, mules bray, oxen low, and the day's march begins. Mr. Keegan walks beside the family's team of six oxen. Nine-year-old Joe Keegan and his 12-year-old sister, Meg, also walk. Mr. Keegan's brother, Ezra, rides the family's saddle horse as he herds the train's cattle and sheep.

The prairie is flat but rough, and riding in a wagon is uncomfortable. It is better to walk alongside the oxen. They move at a steady two miles an hour, making it easy to keep pace. Walkers can ^[L]_[SEP] avoid the dust, pick wildflowers, and enjoy exploring the prairie dog villages or strange rock formations along the trail.

After five hours spent covering 10 miles, it is time for the noon break. Lunch is the same as breakfast, except for some fresh greens Meg picked on the prairie.

Two hours after they stop, the people and animals begin their march again. It is hot and dusty. Everyone is tired. Joe, daydreaming about dinner, hopes there will be antelope or bison to eat instead of bacon. But that is not likely. The men do not have any experience hunting on the

prairie. Besides, wild animals have started to avoid the heavily traveled trail. Maybe on Sunday's half-holiday from travel, his mother will put some beans on to cook during the preaching. Everyone likes beans, but they take a long time to cook, and fuel is scarce.

After another eight miles, it is time to camp for the night. The wagons are set up in a circle, forming a temporary corral for the livestock. The horses are unhitched and unharnessed. The men feed and water the animals and check their hooves—if the wagon train is to reach California, its animals must be well cared for. The women walk to a nearby stream and wash themselves, the children, and some clothing.

After dinner, the leader of the train and tomorrow's scouts study their guidebooks and discuss possible camping spots and river crossings. Joe listens to stories at one campfire; Meg and her friends sing hymns at another. Finally, the bone-tired travelers enter their tents, and the night herders ride off to work. A wolf howls in the darkness.

Tomorrow will be much like today—a mixture of monotony, hard work ... and new adventures.

In "A Day on the Trail," the narrator suggests that the travelers rarely have fresh meat available for meals. Which **two** sentences from the passage **best** support this statement?

- ☐ The two men who had guarded the cattle, horses, sheep, mules, and oxen during the night are herding the animals back to camp.
- ☐ The men do not have any experience hunting on the prairie.
- ☐ Besides, wild animals have started to avoid the heavily traveled trail.
- ☐ Maybe on Sunday's half-holiday from travel, his mother will put some beans on to cook during the preaching.
- ☐ Everyone likes beans, but they take a long time to cook, and fuel is scarce.

15

Read the excerpt from "A Day on the Trail."

The prairie is flat but rough, and riding in a wagon is uncomfortable. It is better to walk alongside the oxen. They move at a steady two miles an hour, making it easy to keep pace. Walkers can ^[L]_[SEP] avoid the dust, pick wildflowers, and enjoy exploring the prairie dog villages or strange rock formations along the trail.

Which statement **best** explains how the setting of "A Day on the Trail" affects the travelers' daily life in this excerpt?

- A) It influences how they travel and determines the activities that entertain them along the way.
- B) It limits their diets to foods that can be packed into wagons or obtained from the surrounding landscape.
- C) It tests their endurance and causes physical injury, because the landscape is rough and challenging.
- D) It presents them with hardships, because they lack the knowledge and experience necessary for survival in a prairie environment.

16

Read the sentence from "A Day on the Trail."

After another eight miles, it is time to camp for the night. The wagons are set up in a circle, forming a temporary corral for the livestock.

- A) large.
- B) secure.
- C) short-term.
- D) well-made.

17

Which statement **best** describes a central idea of “A Day on the Trail”?

- A) People tend to find comfort in the most unlikely places.
- B) A pioneer’s journey is defined by hard work and challenges.
- C) The strongest families are those who endure hardships together.
- D) Humans are caught in a perpetual struggle against forces of nature.

18

Heading West

by John Krizek

What made America's early pioneers want to pull up stakes and embark on a perilous journey into the unknown West? Why did they sell their property, load their belongings onto wagons, say good-bye to their friends, and head for California?

Most of the first travelers to the West were farm families looking for land and opportunity. Later, during the gold rush, many went west with the hope of getting rich. Whatever the reasons, all of the early settlers of the American West were willing to take risks. They hoped to find a better life for themselves and their families.

...

Times were tough in the United States around 1840. Westward growth seemed to stall at the Missouri border, disease-carrying mosquitoes were thick along the rivers there, and the country was in a recession. People were ready for opportunities that would improve their lives. Some wagon parties headed for California from the frontier in the early 1840s. However, back on the frontier, those planning new wagon train expeditions had no way of knowing the fate of these earlier groups.

Pioneers to California realized they had a limited amount of time to make their long journey. They could not leave before May, and they had to cross the mountains before the winter snows. If all went well, the travelers had six months to reach their destination. The trip was more than two thousand miles from frontier to coastline.

During the trip, they would have to ford rivers and streams, hunt buffalo and antelope for food, stop for illness or broken wagons, be on the lookout for thieves, accommodate bad weather and other hazards, and remain near rivers so they could provide food and water for their animals.

...

A Day on the Trail

by Jerry Miller

The sun has not yet risen, but Mrs. Keegan is awake already and starting her breakfast fire. The other women in this wagon train of 15 families also are out of bed. The two men who had guarded the cattle, horses, sheep, mules, and oxen during the night are herding the animals back to camp. The animals must be guarded constantly

ELA Despite the hardships, early pioneers proved that it was possible to get wagons over the Sierra Nevada mountain range. The route the early pioneers took was used later by tens of thousands of western settlers, and also by the first railroad across the United States. Their first, exploring steps eventually became the tracks that other travelers followed, and their story embodies the American pioneer spirit.

After five hours spent covering 10 miles, it is time for the noon break. Lunch is the same as breakfast, except for some fresh greens Meg picked on the prairie.

Two hours after they stop, the people and animals begin their march again. It is hot and dusty. Everyone is tired. Joe, daydreaming about dinner, hopes there will be antelope or bison to eat instead of bacon. But that is not likely. The men do not have any experience hunting on the prairie. Besides, wild animals have started to avoid the heavily traveled trail. Maybe on Sunday's half-holiday from travel, his mother will put some beans on to cook

19

Part A:

Based on information in "Heading West" and "A Day on the Trail," which **two** statements **best** describe how the early American pioneers are affected by their setting?

- ☐ Ever-changing landscapes prevent the pioneers from settling permanently in one place.
- ☐ Geography determines the routes, schedules, and lifestyles of pioneers while traveling.
- ☐ The beauty of the wilderness encourages pioneers to honor the natural world.
- ☐ Abundant natural resources lead to the rapid development of industry across the United States.
- ☐ Regional factors such as disease and economic hardship influenced pioneers to explore the unknown landscapes of the West.

Part B:

Which excerpt from the passages **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A) Whatever the reasons, all of the early settlers of the American West were willing to take risks. ("Heading West")
- B) Westward growth seemed to stall at the Missouri border, disease-carrying mosquitoes were thick along the rivers there, and the country was in a recession. ("Heading West")
- C) By the time the sun comes up, the rest of the travelers also are awake. Breakfast consists of coffee, milk, bacon, and biscuits. ("A Day on the Trail")
- D) Maybe on Sunday's half-holiday from travel, his mother will put some beans on to cook during the preaching. ("A Day on the Trail")