

Responding to an Informational Text

When reading and then responding to an Informational Text you need to "mark up" the text as you read it, to ensure that you can quickly identify the key words and phrases needed to answer the questions that follow:

Section F: Reading FMSS OSSLT Activity 2008 2009

Read the selection below and answer the questions that follow it.



Ontario's Agawa Canyon Train Tour welcomes visitors aboard comfortable coaches for one of the most spectacular train excursions in North America. Departing from Sault Ste. Marie, the Algoma Central Railroad's one-day wilderness excursion takes passengers 180 kilometers northwards, over towering trestles, alongside unspoiled northern lakes and rivers, and through the awesome granite rock formations and mixed forests of the Canadian Shield. This scenery inspired the Group of Seven to paint some of Canada's most notable landscape art. The

rugged land shows little evidence of the Ojibway, fur traders, lumberjacks and prospectors who lived here in earlier times. After a few hours, the train coasts 150 meters down to the floor of the Agawa Canyon where passengers spend two hours experiencing the rugged beauty up close, including four sets of waterfalls and a breathtaking lookout. The train excursions are especially popular during autumn when Algoma country is ablaze with colour. The Snow Train's passengers can experience the majestic power and beauty of a Canadian winter as they journey through panoramic views, snow-laden trees and waterfalls transformed into fantastic ice sculptures. In any season, the spectacular scenery provides photographers with many opportunities to capture on film the magnificence of the rugged Canadian landscape.

Reprinted courtesy *The Toronto Star Syndicate*.
Picture copyright © *Elmer Kars/ACRI*.

Comment [P1]: The photograph tells us that this informational text will focus on trains.

Comment [P2]: This is the "who" of the paragraph.

Comment [P3]: The use of this describing word, "spectacular" makes this informational paragraph appear to be an advertisement of some sort. Perhaps this tour company buys advertising space in the Toronto Star, so this informational paragraph is biased.

Comment [P4]: This is the "where" of the paragraph.

Comment [P5]: Again, the words "towering", "unspoiled", and "awesome" tell us that someone is trying to paint a nice picture of the scenery.

Comment [P6]: This is the "what" of the paragraph – what the train tour does.

Comment [P7]: This is another "when" of the paragraph.

Comment [P8]: This is the "why" of the paragraph – why people would want to experience this tour.

Comment [P9]: This is the "when" of the paragraph.

Comment [P10]: The fact that this text was produced by The Toronto Star tells us that the article will contain Canadian content, will probably contain liberal ideas, and has been produced to sell a newspaper (so the content will be newsworthy, and perhaps controversial in nature)

Section F: Reading

FMSS OSSLT Activity 2008 2009

Multiple-Choice (Record the best or most correct answer on the Student Answer Sheet.)

1. Why is the Agawa Canyon Train Tour especially popular during autumn?

- A The rates are cheaper.
- B The landscape is colourful.
- C The temperature is more comfortable.
- D The tours will soon stop for the winter.

2. Which of the following had the most lasting impact on the Agawa Canyon?

- A railroads
- B prospecting
- C the fur trade
- D the lumber industry

3. Why does the author describe the county as "ablaze" with colour?

- A The canyon has been on fire in the past.
- B The colours are similar to those seen in a fire.
- C They set the trees on fire.
- D The colours are ablazing.

4. What are "towering trestles"?

- A long hair.
- B fencing that controls the growth of flowers.
- C large support beams that hold the train tracks off the canyon floor.
- D large trees that climb high into the air along portions of the Agawa Canyon.

5. A painter or a photographer would be most inspired by:

- A the towering trestles
- B the granite rock formations
- C the 150-metre descent
- D the 180-kilometre journey

6. "The rugged land shows little evidence of the Ojibway, fur traders, lumberjacks and prospectors who lived here in earlier time." The commas in this sentence are used to:

- A separate the items
- B emphasize the items
- C give the reader time to think
- D create a list

7. What ideas connect the first and last sentences?

- A photography
- B rock climbing
- C train rides
- D the Canadian/Ontario landscape

Comment [P14]: Find this phrase in the text to find the answer to this question.

Comment [P11]: To answer this question, you need to find this phrase in the text. Whenever you have a descriptor (like the "especially popular" here), look for it in the text.

Comment [P15]: Find this phrase in the text to answer this question.

Comment [P12]: To answer this question, you are looking for a phrase in the text that is similar to this identified phrase.

Comment [P16]: Find this phrase in the text to answer this question.

Comment [P13]: Look for the sentences that surround this quoted word to find the answer for this question.

Comment [P17]: Here, the question provides you with where to look for the answer: "the first and last sentence".

Section F: Reading FMSS OSSLT Activity 2008 2009

Written Answer

8. Would you like to take a trip on the Agawa Canyon Train Tour? Use information from this selection and your own ideas to support your answer.

Comment [P18]: This question requires you to answer "yes" or "no". Choose ONE answer and stick to it when writing your answer.

Comment [P19]: Here, the question asks you to provide two different forms of support: "information from this selection" and "your own ideas". Do so.

9. Summarize this selection. Include a main idea and one point that supports it.

Comment [P20]: Use ALL of the lines provided, because they are provided based on what the province believes should be the length of your answer.

Comment [P21]: This word automatically tells you that you will have to write a Summary Paragraph.

Comment [P22]: This phrase tells you that you need "a" main idea, or one, and "one point" of support. Follow these instructions carefully.

Rough notes

Use the space below for rough notes. Nothing you write in this space will be scored

Comment [P23]: Always use the Rough Notes space provided!!! This space will help you organize your thoughts, and will remind you of ideas that you had when you started the question.