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# **Q&A**

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**Exam** : **SBAC**

**Title** : Smarter Balanced  
Assessment Consortium

**Version** : DEMO

1. Read the story attached.

“Roughing It”

by Mark Twain

My brother had just been appointed Secretary of Nevada Territory – an office of such majesty that it concentrated in itself the duties and dignities of Treasurer, Comptroller, Secretary of State, and Acting Governor in the Governor’s absence. A salary of eighteen hundred dollars a year and the title of “Mr. Secretary,” gave to the great position an air of wild and imposing grandeur. I was young and ignorant, and I envied my brother. I coveted his distinction and his financial splendor, but particularly and especially the long, strange journey he was going to make, and the curious new world he was going to explore. He was going to travel! I never had been away from home, and that word “travel” had a seductive charm for me. Pretty soon he would be hundreds and hundreds of miles away on the great plains and deserts, and among the mountains of the Far West, and would see buffaloes and Indians, and prairie dogs, and antelopes, and have all kinds of adventures, and may be get hanged or scalped, and have ever such a fine time, and write home and tell us all about it, and be a hero. And he would see the gold mines and the silver mines, and maybe go about of an afternoon when his work was done, and pick up two or three pailfuls of shining slugs, and nuggets of gold and silver on the hillside. And by and by he would become very rich, and return home by sea, and be able to talk as calmly about San Francisco and the ocean, and “the isthmus” as if it was nothing of any consequence to have seen those marvels face to face.

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captain said she was a “bully” boat, and all she wanted was more “shear” and a bigger wheel. I thought she wanted a pair of stilts, but I had the deep sagacity not to say so.

The narrator of the attached story experiences a variety of feelings about his brother’s appointment to serve as Secretary of Nevada Territory. Among the emotions he describes are these three.

- A. joy, pity, and disgust
- B. concern, anger, and elation
- C. uneasiness, surprise, and hostility
- D. envy, jealousy, and excitement

**Answer: D**

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In fact, the boat might almost as well have gone to St. Jo. by land, for she was walking most of the time, anyhow – climbing over reefs and clambering over snags patiently and laboriously all day long. The captain said she was a “bully” boat, and all she wanted was more “shear” and a bigger wheel. I thought she wanted a pair of stilts, but I had the deep sagacity not to say so.

Reread the last paragraph of the attached passage (reproduced here). “In fact, the boat might almost as well have gone to St. Jo by land, for she was walking most of the time, anyhow – climbing over reefs and clambering over snags patiently and laboriously all day long. The captain had said she was a “bully” boat, and all she wanted was more “shear” and a bigger wheel. I thought she wanted a pair of stilts, but I had the deep sagacity not to say so.”

Which literary device does the narrator use in this paragraph?

- A. symbolism of the reefs and snags being obstacles in life to overcome
- B. euphemism with the description of “climbing over reefs” rather than “scraping along the bottom”
- C. alliteration with the “bully” boat description
- D. personification of the boat as a “she”

**Answer: D**

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Reread this passage from the attached text. “Pretty soon he would be hundreds and hundreds of miles away on the great plains and deserts, and among the mountains of the Far West, and would see buffaloes and Indians, and prairie dogs, and antelopes, and have all kinds of adventures, and may be get hanged or scalped, and have ever such a fine time, and write home and tell us all about it, and be a hero. And he would see the gold mines and the silver mines, and maybe go about of an afternoon when his work was done, and pick up two or three pailfuls of shining slugs, and nuggets of gold and silver on the hillside.”

This passage best illustrates the author’s use of \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. oxymoron
- B. imagery
- C. hyperbole
- D. metaphor

**Answer: C**

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You are asked to describe the trustworthiness and reliability of the narrator of the attached passage. Which of these would be the best response?

- A. The narrator is not trustworthy because he is too concerned about what he might be missing out on because he says, "I never had been away from home, and that word 'travel' had a seductive charm for me." He'll be too busy being jealous that he's only a secretary and not selected to as high a position as his brother to accurately relate the events that will unfold. Jealousy between brothers can run deep and will skew the narrator's perspective as he recounts the events, so he will not be trustworthy.
- B. The narrator is trustworthy because he admits to being both excited for his brother and jealous of the opportunity. He admits that what he "suffered in contemplating his happiness, pen cannot describe" and then when he is offered the opportunity to join his brother, his "contentment was complete" and he hurriedly packed his bags in preparation for departure. This honesty shows we can trust the narrator.
- C. The narrator is not trustworthy because he clearly does not like his brother and is looking forward to him possibly being "hanged or scalped." This means that we can't trust his telling of the events because he will always have a negative slant toward his brother. He secretly wants him dead.
- D. The narrator is trustworthy because he was there on the trip, too, after his brother invited him to go along as his "private secretary." Because he is so elated to go on this journey, we can trust that he will tell things exactly as they happened and we can trust his account.

**Answer: B**

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What is most likely the author’s intent in mentioning the difficult time when traveling from St. Louis to “St. Jo”?

- A. to show he now regrets accepting the offer to travel with his brother to Nevada Territory
- B. to show that riverboat captains were often unprepared for the hidden dangers in the rivers they navigated, which meant there were unnecessary delays
- C. to show the difficulty and drudgery of traveling in those days, which is juxtaposed against the excitement and anticipation he felt about the opportunity to travel earlier on in the passage
- D. to show how much railways eased the travel burden (Whereas the boat he traveled on kept getting caught on the sandbars and river bottom, making progress slow, a railroad would have sped up the trip immensely.)

**Answer: C**