

2nd & 3rd  
Grades

# PQA PRACTICE

Learning to *put* the  
*question* in the *answer*  
and to write in  
*complete sentences.*

## STEP 2



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I have had a hard time finding texts that are appropriate for 2nd grade and also have open ended questions rather than all multiple choice. I use texts like this to build students' test-taking strategies. We practice finding the answer, or proof, in the text and practice writing the answer in complete sentences. I hope this helps you and your students!

### *Standards*

1. 2.RL.1, 2.RL.3, 2.RL.5
2. 2.RI.1, 2.RI.4, 2.RI.6, 2.RI.8
3. 2.RI.1, 2.RI.4, 2.RI.5
4. 2.RI.1, 2.RI.5
5. 2.RL.1, 2.RL.5
6. 2.RI.1, 2.RI.6
7. 2.RI.5, 2.RI.6
8. 2.RI.1, 2.RI.2, 2.RI.6
9. 2.RI.1, 2.RI.2, 2.RI.4
10. 2.RL.1, 2.RL.3, 2.RL.6
11. 2.RL.1, 2.RL.3
12. 2.RI.1, 2.RI.6, 2.RI.8
13. 2.RL.1, 2.RL.2, 2.RL.3
14. 2.RI.5, 2.RI.6
15. 2.RI.1, 2.RI.2, 2.RI.6
16. 2.RL.1, 2.RL.3
17. 2.RI.1, 2.RI.3, 2.RI.4
18. 2.RL.1, 2.RL.3
19. 2.RL.3, 2.RL.5
20. 2.RL.3, 2.RL.6

Name:

Date:

Sarah and Jake went out to ride their bikes. They rode all the way to the end of their block. When they got there, they saw a cat was lost. "Oh no," Jake said. "He's lost!" Sarah got off her bike and sat on the ground hoping the lost cat would come near her. He did! Sarah softly pet the lost cat until he started to purr. "Let's take him home," Sarah said. Jake walked both bikes home while Sarah held the cat. When they got home their mom called the animal shelter. Someone had just called and said they lost their cat. Sarah, Jake, and Mom drove to the shelter with the cat. The owner was there waiting. Jake and Sarah were so happy that the lost cat was able to go back home!

1. What is the problem in the story?

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2. Who are the characters in the story?

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3. How do the characters feel when they find the lost cat?

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4. How do the characters feel at the end of the story?

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Name:

Date:

## Blizzards

Lots of people like to play in the soft, white, fluffy snow that falls in winter. Watching it snow is beautiful.

Sometimes falling snow can be unsafe. Blizzards have strong winds, heavy snow, and cold air. The snow can blow so hard that it hides almost everything. Sometimes all you can see in front of you is snow. When this happens, it is called a whiteout. It is very dangerous to drive in a whiteout because you can't see the road or the cars in front of you. When there is a blizzard, people should stay inside and watch the snowfall where it is safe and warm.

1. What is it called when all you can see in front of you is snow?

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2. What does the author want you to learn from this?

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3. The author ends by saying that people should stay inside during a blizzard. What reasons does the author give?

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4. What are signs of a blizzard?

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Name:

Date:

## Baboons

Baboons are large monkeys that can be found on the ground and in trees in Africa. They spend most of their time on the ground, but they sleep in high places, like trees. Baboons live and travel in very large groups called troops. Each troop has a male leader. This leader helps guard the group. Baboons have different calls they use to talk to each other. If a baboon is scared, their call sounds like a dog bark. A baboon can live to be about 30 years old in the wild.



*A baboon in the wild.*

1. In the text, what is a troop?

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2. What does the caption in this text say?

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3. In what continent are baboons found in nature?

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4. Can any baboon be the troop leader?

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Name:

Date:

Introduction	4
Types of Fires	5
Firefighting Tools	6
Firefighting Machines	8
Becoming a Firefighter	12
Summary	14
Glossary	15
Index	16

1. If you were going to look up what a word means, where would you look and what page is it on?

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2. What page would you turn to if you wanted to see the steps it would take to become a firefighter?

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3. What would this page be called in a non-fiction book?

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4. What chapter begins on page 6?

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Name:

Date:

The Dolling family walked into their kitchen from the back door. The floor was covered in water! James didn't know why but he wanted to find out. James rolled up his pants, took off his socks and shoes, and started walking around. He walked to the sink and opened the cabinet. There wasn't any water in the cabinet so he knew it didn't come from there. He kept walking. He walked up to the fridge and opened it. There were no clues to tell him if the fridge was the problem. The last place he thought to look was the dishwasher. He saw the dishwasher had water dripping from the bottom. Was that the problem?

1. What was the problem in the story?

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2. What was the source of the water?

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3. If you wrote the end of this story, what would it be?

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Name:

Date:

## Barack Obama

Barack Obama was born in 1961 in Hawaii. He lived with his grandparents until he finished high school. He moved to New York to go to college. Barack always wanted to help people have better lives. He moved to Chicago and helped people learn about new jobs. He wanted to do more. He moved to Boston and studied to become a lawyer. When he finished, he moved back to Chicago. He soon became a member of the Illinois Senate and worked to create better laws in Illinois. In 2004, Barack Obama was elected to represent Illinois in the U.S. Senate. He spent 4 years as a U.S. Senator. Barack Obama was elected president of the United States in November 2008. In 2012, he was elected to serve a second term as President.

1. What was the author's purpose for writing this?

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2. In what state was Obama born?

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3. Where did Obama go to college?

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Name:

Date:

Frogs	Toads
Smooth or slimy skin	Dry, bumpy skin
Lives in wet places	Lives in dry places
Long, strong back legs (for leaping)	Shorter back legs (for walking)
Webbed feet	No webbing on feet
Lays eggs in groups	Lays eggs in long chains

1. What two animals is this table comparing?

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2. How is a frog's skin different than a toad's?

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3. Given where they live, why is it better that a frog has webbed feet?

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4. What does the author want you to learn from this table?

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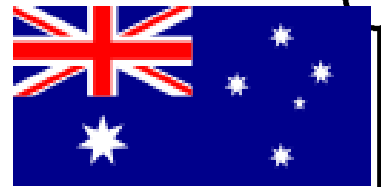
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Australia is the largest country in the continent with the same name. The capital is Canberra, but the largest city is Sydney. The largest part of Australia is the desert known as the outback. Because of the climate, most people live in the southeast corner of the country. There are some animals that are native to the country, like koalas and the kangaroo.

Just like in the United States, there are three branches of government in Australia. One big difference, though, is that the Queen of England, Queen Elizabeth II, is the ruler of Australia. Australia also has different states that make up the country.



*The Australian flag*

1. What is the main topic of this text?

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2. What does the author want you to learn after reading?

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3. What is the desert in Australia known as?

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4. In what continent is Australia located?

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Name:

Date:

## Trees

You probably have noticed that there are different types of trees in your neighborhood. Did you know that there are different types of trees across the world? The climate, or weather, controls what type of tree is able to survive in an area. Some trees need a lot of rain, but others need a lot of sun. Pine trees live where it is colder. They may live where there are mountains. Palm trees live where it is warm. They may live where there are beaches and the ocean. What kind of trees are there where you live?

1. What is the main topic of this text?

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2. What does the word climate mean?

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3. What type of weather is best for a palm tree?

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4. Could you have palm trees in your area? Why or why not? Support you answer with details from the text.

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Name:

Date:

Katie spent Saturday morning in her bedroom. She did not listen to her mom and clean her room. She just sat on the floor playing with her dolls. Katie was mad. She thought her mom should help her clean her room. When her mom came to see the room her mom was mad! "Katie, I asked you to clean your room. Why didn't you do it," her mom asked. "I want you to help me," Katie said. "Katie, this is your room and your mess. You need to clean it. Not me. I will come back soon and I hope to see you cleaning," Katie's mom told her. Katie was still mad. She knew if she did not clean her room, she would not be able to play with her friends. Katie did not want to, but she cleaned her room anyway. That night, Katie was glad she did what her mom asked because her friend Jane came over to stay the night.

1. Who are the characters in the story?

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2. In the middle of the story, how is Katie feeling and how is mom feeling?

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3. Why did Katie decide to clean her room?

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Name:

Date:

"I wonder who is at the door," Jane said to her sister Mary. Mary went to answer the door. "Jane! Sarah and Kelley are here to play with us!" "It's a good day to play outside," Sarah said. "Come on!" cried Kelley. "No, I don't want to go outside," Jane answered. "You go outside and play without me." Mary didn't want to leave her sister but wanted to go outside to play. She decided to go anyway.

When the girls went outside to play, Mary was still sad that her sister didn't come with them. "It's okay Mary," Sarah said, "We wanted her to play too." The girls played on the sidewalk with chalk as the sun was shining on them. After a while, the girls heard someone say "Hi!". Jane had come outside to play after all!

1. Who are the characters in this story?

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2. Why was it a good day to play outside?

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3. How did Mary feel at the end of the story and how do you know?

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Name:

Date:

## Martin Luther King Jr.

Every year we celebrate Martin Luther King Day. We remember the life of a great American leader. When Martin Luther King Jr. was 19, he decided to become a minister. His first job was at a church in Alabama. In the south, African Americans were called "colored" and did not have the same rights as white Americans. In 1955, a black woman was put in jail when she would not give up her seat on a bus to a white man. Martin believed all Americans should have the same rights so he asked black people not to use the bus at all. In 1963, when Martin led a march in Washington D.C., more than 250,000 black and white Americans marched with him. At the march, he shared his dream that one day, the color of a person's skin wouldn't matter. The next year, the United States passed a law ending the unfair treatment of black people, so that everyone was treated equally.

1. What does the author want you to learn from reading this?

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2. The author says that Martin Luther King Jr. was a great American leader. What support does the author give?

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3. Why did people march with Martin in Washington D.C.?

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Name:

Date:

## City Mouse and Country Mouse

The poor country mouse came to visit his cousin, the rich city mouse. There were many things to do in the city. The country mouse had never seen so many other mice. The city mouse warned the country mouse that there was a cat in the house. The country mouse was scared. He decided that he would rather live in the poor, quiet country than live in fear every day. After that, the country mouse happily left for his home.

1. What is the moral, or lesson, the author wants you to learn from reading this fable?

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2. What made country mouse decide to move back home?

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3. How is the country different from the city?

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Name:

Date:

## How to Make Ice Cream

Did you know that you can make your own ice cream? It's easy and a lot of fun. You just need a few ingredients.

### *Ingredients*

1 gallon-size, resealable plastic bag

Ice cubes

6 tablespoons of rock salt

1 pint-size, resealable plastic bag

1/2 cup half and half

1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 tablespoon white sugar

First, open the gallon-size plastic bag and fill it more than halfway full with ice cubes. Then add the rock salt to the bag and set it to the side. Next, open the pint-size plastic bag. Have someone hold the bag open while you put in the half and half, vanilla, and sugar. Then seal the bag *tightly*. Put the smaller bag inside the bigger bag. Seal the large bag again. Now is the fun part! Shake the whole bag all around. The more you shake it, the better. You might get tired so it helps to have someone else to help. Make sure to shake it for at least five minutes. If it looks like ice cream, carefully open both bags and scoop your ice cream into the bowl. Last, enjoy your creation!

1. Why did the author put *tightly* in italics?

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2. What is the third step in the recipe above?

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3. What does the author want you to learn from reading this?

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Name:

Date:

## Sending Messages

People have always found ways to send messages to each other. Over time, how we do it has changed. Long ago, beating on a drum was one way to send a message. It could be heard a few miles away. Smoke was also used to send messages. A blanket was put over a fire and when it was taken away, a puff of smoke would rise into the air. Each pattern meant something different.

Over time, people began to write messages. This was the first mail. At first, mail was carried by runners. Sometimes a group of people would each run the mail before giving it to someone else to keep it going. Later, horses were used to carry mail. This was called the Pony Express. Then trains transported mail. Now, trucks and planes are used the most. But, we also can send text messages and e-mails now. This lets us send a message to someone immediately. Sending mail is not used as often.

1. What is the main topic of the first paragraph?

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2. What was the author's purpose for writing this text?

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3. Why do people send less mail now?

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4. Why are planes used instead of trains to transport mail now?

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Name:

Date:

"I can see it!" Blake yelled. Blake was gazing at the sky looking for the rainbow everyone was trying to see. Jack tried to shade his eyes from the sun hoping to see the rainbow, but it wasn't working. It seemed like everyone else could find it but him. Brock came over to try and point it out for Jack but it didn't help. Jack gave up and went inside.

A few minutes later, Jack had an idea. He went into the bathroom and was looking for something but Brock and Blake didn't know what it was. A couple minutes later he came out and asked them to follow him outside. He brought a spray bottle and squirted water into the air. He made a rainbow of his own that he knew he could see this time!

1. What was the problem in the story?

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2. How was the problem solved?

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3. How did Jack's feelings change throughout the story?

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Name:

Date:

## Echolocation

- A bat sends out a constant stream of beeping noises.
- The sound waves spread out ahead of the flying bat.
  - Sound waves strike objects such as flying insects.
  - Sound waves bounce off and echo back to the bat.
  - The bat picks up the reflected sound with its ears.
- Nerves carry a signal from the bat's ears to its brain.  
The brain interprets the size, distance, speed, and direction of the item.

1. Based on the information in the text, what does echolocation mean?

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2. What is the third step to echolocation?

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3. What is the last step to echolocation?

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4. What do you think a bat would use echolocation for?

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Name:

Date:

Lori was excited to go to lunch with her best friend Denise. They walked down the stairs in a quiet line, but were whispering to each other when the teacher wasn't looking. Today was a special day at school. Instead of regular milk, the school had chocolate milk! Lori waited for her turn and picked up two chocolate milks. When she gave her card to the woman at the front, she found out she didn't have enough money to buy two milks. She sadly put one back and went to her seat. When Denise came to sit next to her, Denise had 3 milks on her tray. Denise had bought her one! Denise was a great friend!

1. Who are the characters in the story?

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2. What is the problem in the story?

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3. How does Lori feel at the beginning, middle, and end of the story?

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Name:

Date:

Jason wants to be a cowboy. He has a cowboy hat and cowboy boots. "Yee-haw!" he says. His brothers plan a surprise for Jason. "Let's take him to a farm to ride a real horse," says Brian. Cory tells their mom their idea. On Saturday, Mom tells the boys to get in the car for a surprise. Of course, the other boys knew. The farmer brings out two horses for them all to see. "Horses!" Jason shouts. "They are so big!" "Can I ride one of them?" Jason asks the farmer. "I'm sorry, you can't ride these horses," the farmer says. "They aren't tame and could hurt you." "I really wanted to ride a horse," Jason says sadly.

The next day the phone rings and Mom answers it. She tells Jason that she has another surprise for him. The farmer called mom to tell her of a farm where Jason could ride horses. When they got to the farm, Jason wasn't very excited. When the farmer brings out a horse just for him, Jason yelled in excitement. "I get to ride this horse?" "This is the best day ever!"

1. What happens at the end of the story? Why is it important to the story?

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2. How does Jason feel at the beginning, middle, and end of the story?

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Name:

Date:

### Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Once upon a time, there lived a girl named Goldilocks. One day, she went for a walk in the woods. She found a house and knocked on the door. No one answered so she went in. Three bowls of porridge sat on the table. She was hungry so she decided it was okay if she ate some. First, she tasted the porridge from the big bowl. "This is too hot," she said. Then, she tasted the porridge from the middle bowl. "This porridge is too cold," she thought. Next, she tasted the porridge in the smallest bowl. "Mmmmm, this porridge is just right!" she said. She ate it all.

After eating the porridge, Goldilocks walked into the bedroom. She saw three beds and decided she was ready for a nap. She tried the biggest bed. "This is too big and I can't sleep," Goldilocks thought. She moved to the middle bed and thought that one was still too big. Last, she tried the smallest bed. "This bed is just right." and she fell asleep.

While Goldilocks was sleeping, the owners came home. They saw that someone had eaten their porridge! The angry bears looked around the house. They found Goldilocks asleep in Baby Bear's bed. When Goldilocks saw three hungry, angry bears watching her, she jumped out of bed and ran out of the house. She never went back!

1. How does Baby Bear feel at the end of the story? How does Goldilocks feel? How is it the same or different?

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2. How does Goldilocks feel in the middle of the story? How does she feel at the end? How is it the same or different?

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