

Today, you will read two stories titled “Peter’s Chair” and “I Love You the Purplest.” As you read, think about the actions of the characters and the events of the stories. Answer the questions to help you write an essay.

Read the story titled “Peter’s Chair” by Ezra Jack Keats. Then answer Questions 1 through 3.

Peter's Chair
By Ezra Jack Keats

① Peter stretched as high as he could. There! His tall building was finished. CRASH! Down it came.

② "Shhhh!" called his mother.

③ "You'll have to play more quietly. Remember, we have a new baby in the house."

④ Peter looked into his sister Susie's room. His mother was fussing around the cradle.

⑤ "That's my cradle," he thought, "and they painted it pink!"

⑥ "Hi, Peter," said his father. "Would you like to help paint sister's high chair?"

⑦ "It's my high chair," whispered Peter.

⑧ He saw his crib and muttered, "My crib. It's painted pink too."

⑨ Not far away stood his old chair. "They didn't paint that yet!" Peter shouted.

⑩ He picked it up and ran to his room.

⑪ "Let's run away, Willie," he said.

Peter filled a shopping bag with cookies and dog biscuits.

⑫ "We'll take my blue chair, my toy crocodile, and the picture of me when I was a baby." Willie got his bone.

⑬ They went outside and stood in front of his house. "This is a good place," said Peter. He arranged his things very nicely and decided to sit in his chair for a while.

⑭ But he couldn't fit in the chair. He was too big!

15 His mother came to the window and called, "Won't you come back to us, Peter dear? We have something very special for lunch."

16 Peter and Willie made believe they didn't hear. But Peter got an idea.

17 Soon his mother saw signs that Peter was home. "That rascal is hiding behind the curtain," she said happily.

18 She moved the curtain away. But he wasn't there!

19 "Here I am," shouted Peter.

20 Peter sat in a grown-up chair. His father sat next to him.

21 "Daddy," said Peter, "let's paint the little chair pink for Susie."

22 And they did.

1. Part A

What does **rascal** mean as it is used in Paragraph 17 of “Peter’s Chair?”

- a. Big person
- b. Sneaky person
- c. Smart person
- d. Cute person

Part B

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

- a. “...Peter got an idea.”
- b. “Won’t you come back to us, Peter dear?”
- c. “Peter sat in a grown-up chair.”
- d. “...is hiding behind the curtain.”

2. Part A

What do the details of the story show about Peter’s feelings?

- a. Peter didn’t want to grow up.
- b. Peter didn’t like Susie.
- c. Peter didn’t want to lose his cradle.
- d. Peter was excited to grow up.

Part B

Which detail from “Peter’s Chair” supports the answer to Part A?

- a. “‘Daddy,’ said Peter, ‘let’s paint the little chair pink for Susie.’”
- b. “But he couldn’t fit in the chair. He was too big!”
- c. “Peter looked into his sister Susie’s room. His mother was fussing around the cradle.”
- d. “‘We’ll take my blue chair, my toy crocodile, and the picture of me when I was a baby.’”

3. Part A

Peter’s feelings change from the beginning of the story to the end of the story. How do they change?

- a. He learns to share with Susie, because she is his little sister.
- b. He becomes more afraid that Susie’s going to take his stuff.
- c. He doesn’t care as much about his things.
- d. He wants to spend more time with his dad.

Part B

Which detail from the story **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- a. “Peter sat in a grown-up chair. His father sat next to him.”
- b. “‘Daddy, said Peter, ‘let’s paint the little chair pink for Susie.’”
- c. “Soon his mother saw signs that Peter was home.”
- d. “‘It’s my high chair,’ whispered Peter.”

Read the story titled "I Love You the Purplest" by Barbara Joosse. Then answer questions 4 through 6.

I Love You the Purplest
by Barbara Joosse

① Early in the evening the brothers and their Mama finished their supper in the sturdy red cabin and set out to fish.

② The lake slowed its thrashing to a soft, even beat. The mosquitoes dipped low to the water and the water bugs skittered on top. The moon glowed on one side of the lake while the sun shimmered on the other. This was the time when fishing was best.
Max exploded from the cabin, twirling the shovel in front of him. Mama came next, and then Julian. Julian shut the cabin door tightly to keep it safe from burglars and bears.

③ Julian scooped the dirt to find the fattest worms.
Max jumped on the shovel and flung dirt in the air until a tangle of worms filled his can.
"Mama, who has the most worms?" he asked.

④ Mama smiled.
"Max, your can is full of the liveliest worms. And Julian, your can has the juiciest."

⑤ Max, Julian and Mama stepped into the small wooden boat. Julian took one oar and Max took the other.
Julian planted his blue boots wide and took deep, even strokes. Max braced his red boots against the ribs of the boat and stroked quickly through the water.

The brothers' faces were hot and they gulped at the air. Julian gasped, "Mama, who's the best rower?"

Mama's eyes grew soft. "Why, Julian, you took the deepest strokes. And Max, your strokes were the fastest."

⑥ The three fished until the stars sprinkled the sky and water turned dark as night. In the end, Mama caught one fish, Julian caught one fish and Max caught three.

"I'm the best fisherman," cried Max, hoisting his fish in the air. Julian pushed his hat brim low on his face.

"Three fish! What a bountiful fisherman you are," said Mama.

"And Julian, you're the cleverest. Your fish hid in the weeds, but you waited. When your bobber jerked in the water you kept your pole high and you reeled in a fine, fat fish."

When the fishing and the baths and the stories were done, Mama tucked the brothers into bed.

Julian slept in the top bunk and she reached up to kiss him goodnight.

"Mama," whispered Julian, his hands forming a tunnel around her ear. "Who do you love best?"

Mama thought for a minute, and then she whispered, "Why, Julian, I love you the bluest! I love you the color of a dragonfly at the tip of its wing. I love you the color of a cave in its deepest, hidden part where grizzly bears and bats curl up until night. The mist of a mountain. The splash of a waterfall. The hush of a whisper."
The breath in Julian's chest grew and grew and grew until he couldn't hold it any longer. Then it came out in a long, velvety sigh.

Mama crouched low to the bunk where Max slept. Max wriggled his finger for Mama to come close. He whispered, "Mama, who do you love best?"

"Why Max, I love you the reddest! I love you the color of the sky before it blazes into night. I love you the color of a leopard's eyes when it prowls through the jungle, and the color of a campfire at the edge of the flame. A wide open hug. The swirl of a magic cape. The thunder of a shout."
The smile on Max's face grew and grew until his cheeks couldn't hold it in. Then it came out in a big, thundery laugh.

Later in the evening the brothers and their Mama slept: one in the top bunk, glowing like the evening sun, the other in the bottom bunk glowing like the evening moon, and Mama in the big bed dreaming of the boys she loved best.

4. Part A

What does **bountiful** mean as it is used in Paragraph 7 of “I Love You the Purplest?”

- a. smartest
- b. best
- c. the one with the most fish
- d. the one with the biggest fish

Part B

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

- a. “In the end, Mama caught one fish, Julian caught one fish and Max caught three.”
- b. “‘I’m the best fisherman,’ cried Max.”
- c. “‘Your fish hid in the weeds, but you waited.’”
- d. “‘...you reeled in a fine, fat fish.’”

5. Part A

Which statement **best** describes Mama’s talk with each of her boys before they go to sleep?

- a. Mama names lots of items that are red and blue.
- b. The boys each want to be Mama’s favorite, but Mama knows how to make them each feel special.
- c. The boys both feel good after they talk to Mama.
- d. Mama tucked both boys into bed before they fell asleep.

Part B

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

- a. "I love you the color of a leopard's eyes when it prowls through the jungle, and the color of a campfire at the edge of the flame."
- b. "The smile on Max's face grew and grew..."
- c. "Later in the evening, the brothers and their Mama slept..."
- d. "...Mama in the big bed dreaming of the boys she loved best."

6. Part A

When Max cries that he is the best fisherman, Julian feels upset. Mama tries to make him feel better without making Max feel bad either. How does she do this?

- a. She notices Julian's hat brim is low on his face.
- b. She tells them both good things they did while they fished.
- c. She tells Julian that she loves him the bluest, and Max that she loves him the reddest.
- d. She says nice things about each of their worms.

Part B

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

- a. "'Max, your can is full of the liveliest worms. And Julian, your can has the juiciest.'"
- b. "'The mist of a mountain. The splash of a waterfall. The hush of a whisper.'"
- c. "'...What a bountiful fisherman...And Julian, you're the cleverest...'"
- d. "Julian pushed his hat brim low on his face."

