

Today, you will read two stories titled “Jonas” and “The Leaving Morning.” 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 “Jonas” by Alice K. Boatwright. Then answer Questions 1 through 3.

Jonas: Based on a True Story
By Alice K. Boatwright

① Jonas was once a great hunting dog. He could run all day and never get tired. He could swim across streams and jump over fences. He could find anything, just using his nose.

② Dad has a medal Jonas won, and on the bureau there is a picture of Jonas in a frame. He looks shiny and handsome. It was taken before I was born.

③ Now Jonas is 15. In dog years, that 105—older even than Granddaddy. Jonas hunts for slippers and dust balls now, not rabbits.

④ When I come home from school, I can see Jonas looking out the window, watching for me. He's hoping we'll go for a walk. Usually we go around the block so he can see what the other dogs have been up to all day.

⑤ Jonas likes to play with me. When I throw a ball, he can always find it. If Dad throws the ball for him, he runs after it, but he often brings back a rock or an old bone instead.

⑥ Once Jonas and I went hunting in the tall grass behind the house. We were going to catch something big, but Jonas saw a crow and disappeared after it into the woods.

⑦ I ran and called to him to come back, but he couldn't hear me. Finally I sat down to wait. It took him a long time to find me again.

⑧ We were both glad to get home for supper.

9 Sometimes Jonas forgets that he's been fed. He stands over his bowl looking patient and sad. I sneak him a dog bone so he won't think he's hungry.

10 At night Jonas sleeps on the floor by my bed. Some nights he has dreams and barks in his sleep. I think he's remembering all the adventures we've had. When I have a dream that wakes me up, I like to reach down and feel him there by my bed.

11 One morning I got up and stepped in a puddle. Mom said Jonas had had an accident in the night. I didn't know that could happen to a dog when he was old. He was very embarrassed. I did my best to comfort him—I know how it feels to have an accident.

12 Some days we go to the beach, and Jonas forgets all about being old. He runs and jumps and finds horrible things to eat. We have so much fun that Dad has to tell us it's time to go home, or else we would never stop.

13 Other days Jonas hardly gets up from his chair. I see Dad looking at him and he know he's thinking how much he'll miss him.

14 When Jonas dies, Dad says we will bury him in the backyard. We will make a sign to show where he is. Sometimes I think about what a beautiful sign we'll make. But mostly I hope it won't happen soon. We all want Jonas to live forever.

15 Dad says the friends you've loved are always with you. That's how I know I'll always have Jonas. I won't ever forget him.

1. Part A

What does **accident** mean as it is used in Paragraph 11 of "Jonas?"

- a. He crashed into something
- b. He went to the bathroom while he was sleeping
- c. He got lost while chasing a crow
- d. He brought back the wrong thing when playing catch

Part B

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

- a. "...he often brings back a rock or an old bone instead."
- b. "...Jonas saw a crow and disappeared after it into the woods."
- c. "One morning I got up and stepped in a puddle...He was very embarrassed."
- d. "When I throw a ball, he can always find it. If Dad throws the ball for him, he runs after it..."

2. Part A

Jonas' actions make the narrator afraid. What is the narrator afraid of?

- a. Jonas won't be able to play catch.
- b. Jonas will die one day.
- c. Jonas will keep forgetting that he's been fed, and he'll always be hungry.
- d. Jonas will eat slippers by accident.

Part B

Which detail from “Jonas” supports the answer to Part A?

- a. “When Jonas dies, Dad says we will bury him in the backyard...But mostly I hope it won’t happen soon.”
- b. “Jonas hunts for slippers and dust balls now, not rabbits.”
- c. “If Dad throws the ball for him, he runs after it, but he often brings back a rock or an old bone instead.”
- d. “Sometimes Jonas forgets that he’s been fed. He stands over his bowl looking patient and sad.”

3. Part A

Read this sentence from Paragraph 4 of the story.

Usually we go around the block so he can see what the other dogs have been up to all day.

This sentence shows Jonas is sad. Why is he sad?

- a. He doesn’t like going for walks.
- b. He doesn’t like the other dogs.
- c. He doesn’t like the block they live on.
- d. He is reminded of all the things the other dogs do that he can’t do anymore.

Part B

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

- a. “He could run all day and not get tired.”
- b. “...disappeared into the woods...”
- c. “Jonas hunts for slippers and dust balls now, not rabbits.”
- d. “He’s hoping we’ll go for a walk.”

Read the story titled "The Leaving Morning" by Angela Johnson. Then answer questions 4 through 6.

The Leaving Morning

by Angela Johnson

① THE LEAVING happened on a soupy, misty morning,
when you could hear the street sweeper.
Sssshhshsh...

② We pressed our faces against the hall window
And left cold lips on the pane.

③ It was the leaving morning.
Boxes of clothes,
toys,
dishes,
and pictures of us everywhere.

④ The leaving had been long because we'd packed
days before and said good-bye
to everyone we knew...

⑤ Our friends...

⑥ The grocer...

⑦ Everybody in our building...

⑧ And the cousins, especially the cousins.

⑨ We said good-bye to the cousins all day long.

⑩ Mama said the people in a truck would move us
and take care of everything we loved,
on the leaving morning.

⑪ We woke up early and had hot cocoa from the deli
across the street.
I made more lips on the deli window
and watched for the movers on the leaving morning.

We sat on the steps and
watched the movers.

12 They had blue moving clothes on
and made bumping noises on the stairs.
There were lots of whistles
and "Watch out, kids."

13 Got me a moving hat and a kiss on the head
from Miss Mattie, upstairs.

14 And on the leaving morning she told me
to watch myself in the new place when I crossed
the street, and think of her.

15 I sat between my mama and daddy,
holding their hands.
My daddy said in a little while we'd be someplace
we'd love.

16 So I left lips on the front window of our apartment,
and said good-bye to our old place,
on the leaving morning.

4. Part A

What is the central message of the story?

- a. It's hard to say goodbye to a place you love.
- b. The love in the neighborhood and the family makes moving easier.
- c. The narrator owned a lot of stuff that had to be moved.
- d. Drinking hot cocoa can make you feel better on a sad day.

Part B

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

- a. "...Boxes of clothes, toys, dishes, and pictures of us everywhere."
- b. "We woke up early and had hot cocoa from the deli."
- c. "I sat between my mama and daddy, holding their hands. My daddy said in a little while we'd be someplace we'd love."
- d. "...we'd packed days before and said good-bye to everyone we knew...our friends...the grocer...everybody in our building...and the cousins, especially the cousins."

5. Part A

At three points in the story, the narrator says she **left lips**. Why did she do that?

- a. She was artistic.
- b. She was kissing the special places goodbye.
- c. It was cold.
- d. Miss Mattie kissed her.

Part B

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

- a. "...on a soupy, misty morning..."
- b. "Got me a moving hat and a kiss on the head from Miss Mattie..."
- c. "...I left lips on the front window of our apartment and said good-bye to our old place..."
- d. "...I made more lips on the deli window and watched for the movers on the leaving morning."

6. Part A

The leaving morning was actually just the last part of moving away. How did that affect the act of moving?

- a. It made it easier, because they could say good-bye to everyone.
- b. It made it better, because they had time to move their belongings.
- c. It made it easier, because they had time to drink cocoa and leave lips.
- d. It made it better, because Miss Mattie gave the narrator a hat.

Part B

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

- a. "...on the leaving morning she told me to watch myself in the new place when I crossed the street..."
- b. "...the people in a truck would move us and take care of everything we loved."
- c. "The leaving had been long, because we'd packed days before and said good-bye to everyone we knew..."
- d. "We woke up early and had hot cocoa from the deli across the street."



