

McGraw-Hill School Education

Grade 5 ELA Performance Task -

Crocodiles

Test ID: 4000710511

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Grade 5 Performance Task 1

In this task, you will read a story and a newspaper article about the same event. You will answer questions about both of them. Then, you will write about a lesson that can be learned from what happened. Finally, you will compare the type of information presented in both texts.

First, read the story. Then, answer the questions that follow.

The Two Men and the Crocodiles

A short man and a tall man looked across a wide, dark river at the colorful market on the other side. The short man, who had lived in the area all his life, knew the market well. “At the market, there are treats sweeter than nectar. You can see the treasures from here! I can almost taste the sweetness,” he said.

The tall man, who was visiting his friend, frowned as he squinted. “I can’t see them,” he pouted. “I’ve broken my glasses. I can barely see my hand in front of my face!”

“Don’t worry,” said the short man. “We will just cross the river and see the treats for ourselves!”

“How will we do that?” grumbled the tall man. “There are no boats!”

The short man laughed. “We don’t need boats!” he said.

“How then?” asked the tall man. “We can’t swim over. You said the river is full of crocodiles waiting to snatch us up.”

Just then a crocodile swished its tail and a bird flew away in alarm, while other crocodiles circled lazily, floating like giant leaves. The tall man squinted at the creatures just in time for one to open its jaws and snap at him. “Aiiiiii!” screamed the tall man. “There’s no way to cross the river!”

“Just watch me,” said the short man.

With that, he walked backwards several steps, and then he took a running start, leaped through the air, landing directly on something dark. The tall man tried to see what the short man was doing, but all he could see was a blurry image as the short man continued to hop from one dark thing to the next until he made it to the other side of the river.

Oh, my! thought the tall man. *He just ran across the river on the crocodiles!*

The short man yelled from the far bank. “Come on!” he shouted. “It’s easy. But hurry, I want to get to market before all the treats are gone.” When the tall man hesitated, the short man added, “You’re not scared, are you?”

No, I’m not scared! Or am I? the tall man thought. He took a deep breath before he ran toward the water, jumped, and landed on top of a crocodile. His weight sent the scaly beast skidding forward, nearly bumping into one of the other crocodiles in the river. As he came close to the other crocodile, the tall man leaped again, landing on another crocodile, and then another. None of them were too happy to be stepped on, but before the crocodiles could get their teeth on the tall man, he landed on the other side of the river, next to his friend.

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The crocodiles circled quickly, snapping their long jaws in anger at having missed such a delicious meal.

The tall man turned toward his friend only to see that his friend's eyes were wide as saucers. "You...you...you jumped over here on *the crocodiles!*" he all but shouted.

The tall man was confused. "But that's the way *you* came over!"

The short man shook his head slowly. "Noooo," he replied, "I jumped across using the boulders!"

The tall man turned to the river to see the water sloshing against four big rocks. Those weren't crocodiles at all! Suddenly, the tall man felt weak. "I...I...I need to sit down," he said.

The short man helped his friend sit down. "You are the bravest person I know," he said proudly.

The tall man smiled weakly. "Next time," he said, "let's wait for the boats."

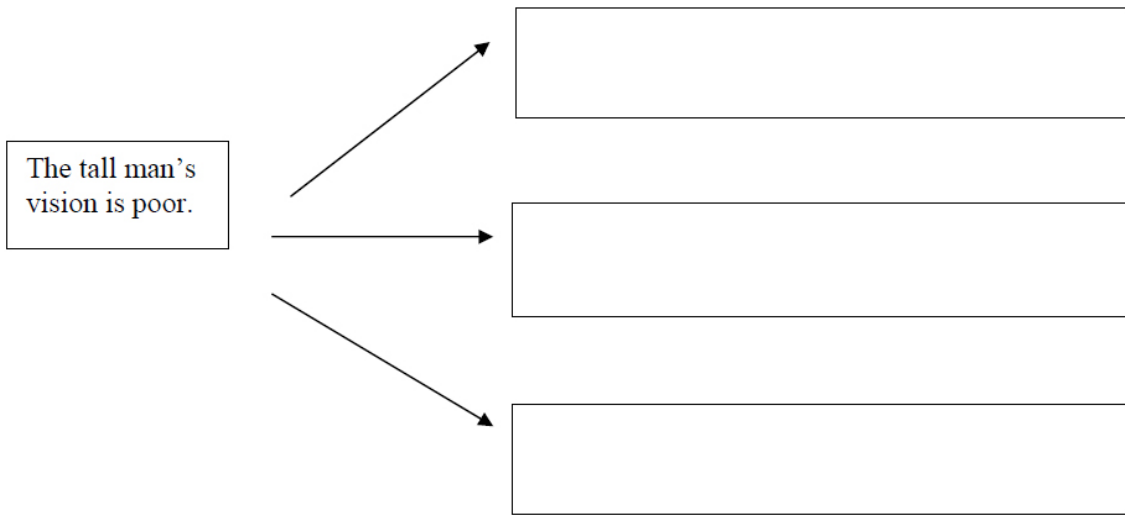
The short man was thoughtful. "Or we can just take the bridge next time," he replied. "It's just a few feet down the river."

A lot of thoughts went through the tall man's head right then, but he just smiled. "Let's go to the market, my friend. Do you think they fix glasses there?"

The short man laughed and the two friends walked off arm in arm.

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1. The tall man in the story says, "I can barely see my hand in front of my face!" Complete the chart below by filling in each box with one effect of the tall man's poor vision.



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Grade 5 Performance Task 3

Now read the newspaper article about the tall man's experience with crossing the river. Then answer the questions that follow.

Nairobi Times

Kenya

Monday, September 26th, 2011

AMERICAN WALKS ON CROCODILES

Nearsighted exchange student crosses Tana River on backs of crocodiles, according to officials.
by Faith Odumbe, staff writer



Photograph of a float of Saltwater Crocodiles sunning (Image Id: 42-27607519), copyright © by Ocean/Corbis.
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Danny McBride, 21, an American exchange student, walked on crocodiles today and lived to tell the tale, according to Kenya Wildlife Service Ranger Sharon Wangai. He performed this amazing feat when he accompanied his friend and fellow student John Amuma, 20, to the Tana River delta. The two study environmental science at Kenyatta University in Nairobi. They were conducting a water survey of the river in the rural village of Bura.

McBride, a native of Clearwater, Florida, in the United States, had no prior experience with crocodiles.

“Danny told me that Florida was full of crocodiles,” explained Amuma. But McBride now confesses that until he arrived in Kenya, he had never seen a crocodile in the wild. “I have seen them at the Central Florida Zoo,

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though,” he states.

After surveying the water, Amuma suggested they go to the market on the east side of the river to buy cool fruit drinks. He also wanted to introduce McBride to his favorite treat sold there: coconut and sweet potato pudding.

In the flooded wet season, the Tana River is typically crossed by bridge or boat. In the current dry season, locals occasionally cross on foot over the rocks that protrude from the water.

Amuma told McBride he knew a short way to cross the river. Amuma proceeded to cross over some large rocks, which McBride mistook for crocodiles.

When asked how he could think rocks were crocodiles, McBride explained that he has poor vision. He lost his glasses the day before when he and Amuma went on safari at Masai Mara National Reserve. “They fell right off my face and under one of the jeep’s tires,” McBride explained.

“So, I just assumed that this was the Kenyan way of crossing the river,” admitted McBride, while he shot a sideways smile at Amuma. “I figured if John could do it, I could too.”

Amuma credits McBride’s height for his dangerous, but successful crocodile crossing.

“It’s a good thing his legs are so long, or he never could have jumped between those animals. They were spaced really far apart!”

Officer Wangai has a different theory. She suspects that McBride succeeded because he stepped on their eyes.

“My grandfather taught me that eyes are the weak spots on a crocodile,” said Wangai.

Whatever the reason, Amuma is impressed with McBride. “I told Danny he’s the bravest person I know,” said Amuma. “Or the craziest,” he added, laughing, and punched McBride playfully in the arm. Amuma shudders to think what would have happened if McBride had not made it across. He says that the first thing he will do when they return to Nairobi is to help his friend get a new pair of glasses.

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3. On the lines below, describe the relationship between Danny McBride and John Amuma as presented in the newspaper article. Use details from the text to support your description.

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Grade 5 Performance Task 4

4. People often learn from their experiences. Both the story and the newspaper article tell about an adventure experienced by Danny McBride. On the lines below, explain what lesson you think Danny might have learned from his experience. In your response, include **two** details, one from each text, to support the lesson you identify.

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