

Illinois ELA Assessment

Practice Item Answer Key

Grade 7 - ELA plus extensions, ELA plus TTS, ELA plus TTS and extensions

The following pages include the answer key for all machine-scored items, followed by a breakdown of the writing rubric expectations for prose-constructed responses.

Item Number	Answer Key
1.	Part A: A Part B: D
2.	Part A: B Part B: C
3.	Central Idea: When Eurydice is taken from him, Orpheus is so heartbroken that he tries to bring her back. Details: Orpheus goes to the Underworld to speak with Hades. Hades grants Orpheus his wish to take Eurydice with him. Orpheus nearly succeeds in his attempt to take Eurydice back home.
4.	Part A: A Part B: B
5.	Part A: C Part B: D
6.	1.The Boy Who Flew Too High 2.Orpheus and Eurydice 3.Both
7.	Part A: A Part B: C, D
8.	Open Ended
9.	Part A: B Part B: D
10.	Every Park... 1. The policy in some national parks is to provide and maintain rock cairns in order to help visitors find their way. 2. Other national parks warn visitors not to rely on rock cairns they may encounter while hiking.

	If you come across... Choice1 Moving rocks to build cairns in a national park can have unintended consequences. Choice7 Adding rocks to an official rock cairn in a national park may cause the cairn to collapse.
11.	Part A: C Part B: A
12.	Part A: A Part B: E,C
13.	Part A: D Part B: B
14.	DD1: clear and direct DD2: expert opinions
15.	Part A: C Part B: D
16.	Row 1: Leave All Stones Unturned Row 2: Rock Cairns Row 3: Both Row 4: Leave All Stones Unturned
17.	Open Ended

#8 Open Ended
Reading Comprehension and Written Expression

There are multiple themes that could be present across both passages. These could include a version of the following:

Failure to follow instructions can result in tragedy.

A personal loss is often followed by heartbreak.

A person can overcome incredible challenges for freedom or love.

Supporting details could include but are not limited to the following:

Failure/instructions and a personal loss:

"Although you are now quite good at flying, you must not forget that it can be very dangerous. Listen to my instructions and be sure to follow them to the letter." (from "The Boy Who Flew Too High", paragraph 1)

"Nor should you fly too high, or the sun will heat the wax and your wings will fall apart." (from "The Boy Who Flew Too High", paragraph 1)

"Icarus was far too close to the sun, and soon the wax that held the feathers together began to melt. Gradually his wings began to lose their shape, and some of the feathers even began to fall off. Icarus flapped his arms frantically, but it was too late. He had lost the power of flight and down he plunged into the sea." (from "The Boy Who Flew Too High", paragraph 6)

"His father called up to him, "Icarus, remember what I told you. Come down right now!" Icarus could not hear him, however, and his father could not catch up with him." (from "The Boy Who Flew Too High", paragraph 5)

"Return to thy home, Orpheus, and take Eurydice; but look not back until you reach again the abodes of men." ("Orpheus and Eurydice", paragraph 16)

"But, sad to tell, Orpheus, in a moment of forgetfulness, looked back to see that Eurydice was really returning with him." ("Orpheus and Eurydice", paragraph 17)

"He saw her gentle face and outstretched arms; but as he looked, she was borne back to Hades' kingdom, and Orpheus beheld her no more, although he tried in vain to follow, and waited for many days, singing songs of grief which melted the rocks to tears, while the wild beasts came and mourned with him. He refused to be comforted." ("Orpheus and Eurydice", paragraph 18)

Overcome challenges:

"But Daedalus longed to take his son back home to Athens. He used wax and feathers to make two pairs of wings. Then he and Icarus practiced flying until they were ready." (from "The Boy Who Flew Too High", introduction)

"you must not forget that it can be very dangerous." (from "The Boy Who Flew Too High", paragraph 1)

"He had first to pass through Hades' regions; and you know this was a difficult thing to do." ("Orpheus and Eurydice", paragraph 8)

"Orpheus approached, paying no attention to the dark frown of Hades, and began to sing." ("Orpheus and Eurydice", paragraph 13)

#17 Open Ended
Reading Comprehension and Written Expression

The response should include but is not limited to a description and specific examples of how each author presents the information on rock cairns. Possible answers may include:

“Rock Cairns”

The author of “Rock Cairns” presents information through the perspective of a National Park Service employee or representative because the information is focused on specific parks and the rules of most of the parks. While the author states that some cairns are intentional and explains their uses, the author also warns of the consequences of tampering with or creating extra cairns. The passage also relates information on parks that do not use rock cairns and lists consequences that may occur should a visitor build, remove, change, or tamper with a rock cairn. It ends with providing a set of park rules regarding cairns specifically.

Examples may include:

- “The rock cairns at national parks like El Malpais, Hawaii Volcanoes, and Acadia are carefully maintained by park staff to keep hikers like you on the correct path.” (p2)
- “Other parks, like Capitol Reef National Park in Utah, don’t build or maintain rock cairns and warn visitors to not rely on these rock piles to guide their hike.” (p3)
- “Follow the guidelines from the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics to ensure future hikers can navigate the trail and prevent damage to the landscape” (p4)
- “If an intentional cairn is tampered with or an unauthorized one is built, then future visitors may become disoriented or even lost.” (p4, bullet 1)

“Leave All Stones Unturned”

The author of “Leave All Stones Unturned” presents information through several different expert opinions. The information is more comprehensive as it provides a variety of warnings about tampering or building rock cairns. It also expands on the dangers and cultural significance of rock cairns as well as the social media aspect. It does include some information about national parks and, like “Rock Cairns,” emphasizes the importance of the “Leave No Trace” principle.

Examples may include:

- “these rock stacks can serve as critical trail markers, and some carry cultural significance, as well. Others are purely decorative, built by visitors who enjoy designing these towers in nature, often for the sake of sharing images of delicately balanced stones on social media” (p1)
- “They could lose time (and end up stuck out after nightfall) or fall from a cliff, for example, if not familiar with the terrain” (p3)
- “Miki`ala Pescaia, a Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner and the chief of interpretation, education and volunteers at Kalaupapa National Historical Park on the island of Molokai, says this behavior can strain local resources.” (p5)
- ““We have very fragile ecosystems here in Hawaii. Once you move those rocks around, you have the potential to kill endangered species.”” (p8)
- “For some people, constructing stone stacks is a meditative practice or photo opportunity.” (p16)
- “Follow Leave No Trace principles, and, Nelson says, consider ‘how you can move across the landscape in a thoughtful way so that thousands of years from now, there is no direct sign that you were there.’” (p19)

