

Spring 2025

GRADE 7

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS/
LITERACY**

PTL071_DIR

Today you will read excerpts from “The Bread Baker’s Apprentice” and “The Borealis Eclipse.” As you read, you will answer questions and write an essay.

PTL071a

from “The Bread Baker’s Apprentice”

by Charles Capaldi

- 1 At 3 o’clock in the morning, the . . . bell rang three times, even though the whole French village was fast asleep, shutters closed against the night air. A single street lamp flickered in front of the bakery. I rubbed the sleep from my eyes, took a deep breath, and knocked at the door. Having volunteered as the baker’s assistant, I hoped to uncover the secrets of French bread baking before returning to the United States. Well, I didn’t exactly volunteer . . . I begged. Monsieur le Boulanger reluctantly agreed, grumbling that it was impossible to learn how to bake good bread in just a few days.
- 2 “Be here at 3 o’clock in the morning,” he said, more as a challenge than a command. “We’ll see how you hold up.”
- 3 So here I was, Monsieur, in his *mitron*¹, looking surprised to see me as he opened the door.
- 4 “Good. You got here on time—that’s a start. Drink this,” he said, pouring me a traditional bowl of hot chocolate. “We start in 45 minutes.”
- 5 The wood-fired oven, still hot from the previous day’s baking, needed a quick burst of heat to come up to temperature. A cast-iron cone directed the flames from one side of the baking chamber to the other. Monsieur checked on the oven repeatedly as we sipped from our bowls. I soon found myself wrapped in a white apron—a note pad tucked in my waistband, ready to record Monsieur’s bread-making secrets should he decide to spill them.
- 6 As the bell of the village . . . struck 4 a.m., I lost my first name as if by magic and became Fiston². . . .
- 7 “Fiston, carry the sacks of flour [*each weighing a hefty 50 pounds*] up the ladder and pile them next to the workbench!”
- 8 “Fiston, sweep the front end of the bakery!”
- 9 “Fiston, stack the baskets that hold the baked bread!”

¹*mitron*—a French word for a tall, white hat with a band around the forehead and a puffy top

²Fiston—the French word for “lad”

PTI071a02_1:4

13. This question has two parts.

Part A

In the excerpt from “The Modern Era,” how does the section “What About Women?” contribute to the overall text?

- A. It gives an example of a major change in the Olympics.
- B. It outlines a problem with the Olympics and provides a solution.
- C. It describes the effects of female athletes being added to the Olympics.
- D. It compares the types of sporting events in which women could compete in the Olympics.

Part B

Which detail from paragraph 3 of the article **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A. “Women were not invited to participate.”
- B. “events for women were added slowly”
- C. “Frenchwoman Alice Milliat became an outspoken supporter.”
- D. “women participated in all the sports”

PT1071b05_P_4:4,5

16. This question has two parts.

Part A

What does the word abolished mean as it is used in paragraph 5?

- A. Avoided
- B. Expanded
- C. Praised
- D. Stopped

Part B

Which details from paragraph 5 provide the **best** context for the meaning of the word abolished? Select **two** correct answers.

- A. "could seat more than 40,000 spectators"
- B. "The games were so popular."
- C. "allow athletes and spectators safe passage to Olympia"
- D. "the Olympic games continued to be held"
- E. "Emperor Theodosius I, however"

Training Future Olympians

This is a transcript of a Share America video produced in 2008.

- 1 **GLEN WERNER ROSEBOOM** (Director of the Training Center): Everyone has an Olympic moment that they remember, whether they're a little kid or as an adult, and I think that's what the love of the Olympics has done for so many people—that one fond memory. We built the training center in Colorado Springs back in 1978.
- 2 **LIONEL RIVERA** (Mayor of Colorado Springs, CO): We have over 140,000 people a year come visit the OTC [Olympic Training Center], right here in Colorado Springs.
- 3 **JAMES SCHERR** (CEO of the US Olympic Committee): It's a primary training center for both the United States Olympic team as well as the US Paralympic Team. We can provide an integrative program so that when an athlete comes here, the only thing they have to do is focus on their training.
- 4 **BO SANDOVAL** (Strength & Conditioning Coordinator): You see a lot of interactions, especially between the more experienced athletes who may have been to one or two Olympic games already. They offer a lot of advice to a lot of the younger athletes.
- 5 **MIKE LEE** (Leader of Projects & Technical Development): It's important to be on the cutting edge so we can stay one millimeter ahead or one second ahead of our competition. "IAM Performance" is an enhanced digital recording that allows the athletes to get instant feedback of their training or their competition.
- 6 **GLEN WERNER ROSEBOOM**: It's really around, can we think ahead of our athletes and coaches just even one step, so we're the behind-the-scenes group so they can only think about world-class performances when we deliver the world-class services.
- 7 **LIONEL RIVERA**: We have the opportunity for young people from around the world to come to Colorado Springs to train with our athletes.
- 8 **JAMES SCHERR**: This year we'll have over 90 countries with 828 athletes participating.
- 9 **GLEN WERNER ROSEBOOM**: Right now we're hosting three Ugandan weight lifters for six months prior to the games.
- 10 **BO SANDOVAL**: It's wonderful every day. As far as the profession goes, it's about the best you can get.

- 11 **JAMES SCHERR:** This facility and all of our funds come from the private sector. We get 87% of our revenue from sponsors and from television broadcasters. The rest comes from private donations from the American public.
- 12 **GLEN WERNER ROSEBOOM:** That's exciting in that it's truly from the grass roots up. And folks like CEOs down to your neighbor are passionate about this.
- 13 **JAMES SCHERR:** We believe it's absolutely critical for the world to have an opportunity to come together peacefully at least once every four years in the Olympic games. It's an example of what the world could be.

Courtesy of Share America.

PTI071c06_P_1:4,5

17. This question has two parts.

Part A

How does the transcript of the video “Training Future Olympians” primarily support the idea in paragraph 13 that the Olympics is a chance for “the world to have an opportunity to come together peacefully”?

- A. By providing details about visiting international athletes
- B. By talking about how people remember watching the Olympics
- C. By describing the different types of teams that train at the center
- D. By describing how experienced athletes help less-experienced athletes

Part B

Which details from the transcript **best** support the answer to Part A? Select **two** correct answers.

- A. “I think that’s what the love of the Olympics has done for so many people—that one fond memory.” (paragraph 1)
- B. “It’s a primary training center for both the United States Olympic team as well as the US Paralympic Team.” (paragraph 3)
- C. “They offer a lot of advice to a lot of the younger athletes.” (paragraph 4)
- D. “This year we’ll have over 90 countries with 828 athletes participating.” (paragraph 8)
- E. “Right now we’re hosting three Ugandan weight lifters for six months prior to the games.” (paragraph 9)

PT1071x07_P_2:2,6

18. This question has two parts.

Part A

In both the excerpt from “The Modern Era” and the excerpt from “Olympic Games,” a purpose the articles share is to —

- A. explain reasons for the growth in size of the Olympics
- B. show how important the Olympics are to society
- C. detail the way competitors are awarded at the Games
- D. give credit to a person who worked to reestablish the Olympic Games

Part B

Which details from the articles **best** support the answer to Part A? Select one answer from **each** article for a total of **two** correct answers.

- A. “He hoped the organization would bring together athletes from around the world.” (paragraph 1, “The Modern Era”)
- B. “He also believed that such an event would promote international peace and understanding.” (paragraph 1, “The Modern Era”)
- C. “each nominated sport must win a majority approval in a final round of voting” (paragraph 8, “The Modern Era,”)
- D. “Although the wreaths were the only prize given at Olympia, the athletes earned substantial prizes for winning.” (paragraph 3, “Olympic Games”)
- E. “contests for young Greek women were very rare and were probably limited to an annual local footrace” (paragraph 4, “Olympic Games”)
- F. “The games were so popular in the ancient world that an *ekecheiria* (truce) was announced before the start of the games.” (paragraph 5, “Olympic Games”)

PTI071x08_P_3:3,5

19. This question has two parts.

Part A

How is the international nature of the Olympic Games developed in the excerpt from “The Modern Era” and the transcript of the video “Training Future Olympians?”

- A. Both sources mention sports played around the world.
- B. Both sources emphasize all member countries voting on the inclusion of new sports.
- C. The excerpt from “The Modern Era” names various host countries, while the transcript of the video “Training Future Olympians” mentions athletes from outside the US who are training in the same center.
- D. The excerpt from “The Modern Era” names the number of countries participating in the first revived Olympic games, while the transcript of the video “Training Future Olympians” describes the varied sources that help fund the center.

Part B

Which details from the article and the transcript **best** support the answer to Part A? Select one answer from **each** passage for a total of **two** correct answers.

- A. “With Coubertin’s urging, the committee decided to recreate the Olympic Games of ancient Greece.” (paragraph 2, “The Modern Era”)
- B. “Tug of war was an event in five Olympic Games but disappeared after 1920.” (paragraph 6, “The Modern Era”)
- C. “Since the first modern Olympics in Athens in 1896, cities [around] the globe have hosted the Games.” (paragraph 10, “The Modern Era”)
- D. “It’s a primary training center for both the United States Olympic team as well as the US Paralympic Team.” (paragraph 3, “Training Future Olympians”)
- E. “Right now we’re hosting three Ugandan weight lifters for six months prior to the games.” (paragraph 9, “Training Future Olympians”)
- F. “This facility and all of our funds come from the private sector.” (paragraph 11, “Training Future Olympians”)

PTI071x10_P

- 20.** You have read the excerpts from “The Modern Era” and “Olympic Games” and the transcript of the video “Training Future Olympians.”

Write an essay in which you explain how the Olympics have changed from when they originated in Greece to now. Use details from all **three** sources to support your essay.





Please let your teacher know that you have completed your test.



