



GRADE SEVEN

AIR PREPARATION

Here are two Passage Sets. Each Passage Set contains two readings and one writing question that you can use to prepare for the AIR exam.

Passage Set One

Passage 1: from “Where Do We Go From Here?” *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander

Where Do We Go From Here?

- 1 There are no coaches
at funerals. No practice
to get ready. No warm-up.
There is no last-second shot, and
- 5 we all wear its cruel
midnight uniform, starless
and unfriendly.

I am unprepared
for death.

- 10 This is a game
I cannot play.
It has no rules,
no referees.
You cannot win.

- 15 I listen
to my father’s teammates
tell funny stories
about love
and basketball.
- 20 I hear the choir’s comfort songs.
They almost drown out Mom’s sobs.
She will not look in the coffin.
That is not my husband, she says.
Dad is gone,

25 like the end of a good song.
What remains is bone
and muscle and cold skin.

Excerpt from "Where Do We o From Here?" *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander.

Passage 2: *Sonnet 71* by William Shakespeare

28 No longer mourn for me when I am dead
Then you shall hear the surly sullen bell
Give warning to the world that I am fled
From this vile world, with vilest worms to dwell:
32 Nay, if you read this line, remember not
The hand that writ it; for I love you so
That I in your sweet thoughts would be forgot
If thinking on me then should make you woe.
36 O, if, I say, you look upon this verse
When I perhaps compounded am with clay,
Do not so much as my poor name rehearse.
But let your love even with my life decay,
40 Lest the wise world should look into your moan
And mock you with me after I am gone.

Sonnet 71 by William Shakespeare.

Prompt 1: Construct a multi-paragraph, written response in which you make and support a claim about a theme that is shared by both poems and how that theme is developed in both poems. Your response must be based on ideas and information that can be found in the source set.

[W.7.1]

Manage your time carefully so that you can:

- review the sources;
- plan your response;
- write a thorough response; and
- revise and edit your response.

Be sure to:

- include a claim;
- acknowledge and distinguish claim from alternate or opposing claims;
- use evidence from multiple sources; and
- avoid overly relying on one source.

Write your multi-paragraph response on your own paper.

Passage Set Two

Passage 1: from *Of Beetles & Angles: A Boy's Remarkable Journey from a Refugee Camp to Harvard* by Mawi Asgedom

1 The desert, I remember. The shrieking hyenas, I remember. But beyond that, I cannot separate what I remember from what I have heard in stories.

2 I may or may not remember seeing my mother look at our house in Adi Wahla, Ethiopia, just before we left. Gazing at it as though it were a person whom she loved and cherished. Trance-walking to the house's white exterior, laying her hands on it for a few moments, feeling its heartbeat-feeling her own heartbeat- then kissing it, knowing that she might never see it again.

3 I remember playing soccer with rocks, and a strange man telling me and my brother Tewolde that we had to go on a trip, and Tewolde refusing to go. The man took out a piece of gum, and Tewolde happily traded his homeland.

4 I remember our journey and the woman we met. Despite her fatigue, she walked and walked and walked, trying to limp her way to safety across miles of stones and rocks. She continued to limp, wanting to stop, but knowing that if she did, she wouldn't move again.

5 She pressed on and on, and soon her limp became a crawl. And then I saw a sight that I would never forget-the soles of her naked feet melting away, and then disappearing into the desert, leaving only her bloody, red flesh, mixed with brownish sand and dirt.

6 But still, she kept on limping. For what choice does a refugee have? We had no choice, either. We-my mother, my five-year-old brother, my baby sister, and I-kept walking, hoping that we would make it to Sudan and find my father. He had fled our war-ravaged home a year earlier, driven away by the advancing Ethiopian army.

7 Even stories fail me as I try to recall the rest of our journey. I know only that the wilderness took its toll, that our young bodies gave way, and that we entered a more barren and deadly internal wilderness.

8 We crossed the Sudanese border and arrived at a city called Awad. A sign should have been posted at the city limits: Awad, home of the exiled. Home of the hopeless. Home of the diseased. A simple sign that would warn and welcome us all.

9 Welcome, all you refugees. All you psychologically tormented. All you physically malnourished. All you uprooted. Rest your burdens here, for you can rest them nowhere else. Rest your hopes here, for no other place will accept them.

10 But do not hope too much. For too much hope can lead to insanity.

Excerpt from *Of Beetles & Angles: A Boy's Remarkable Journey from a Refugee Camp to Harvard* by Mawi Asgedom.

Passage 2: “From Refugee Camp to Rio: Five Olympic Athletes Inspire Hope and Resilience,” *Sojourners* by John Rivera

11 As the world fixes its attention on the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, the residents of the **Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya** will have a special rooting interest.

12 Living in the camp while displaced from their homeland of South Sudan, their hearts will swell with pride as they watch five of their compatriots compete as part of the **first-ever Refugee Olympic Team**, which comprises 10 athletes who will march with the Olympic flag in the Opening Ceremony.

The Five from Kakuma

13 Known as the “Five from Kakuma,” these athletes, all middle-distance runners, were chosen out of 36 competitors from Kakuma and the Dadaab Refugee Camp, also in Kenya.

14 The UN’s¹ refugee agency and the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation organized the team in acknowledgement that the world is grappling with the highest levels of displacement on record. According to the UN, an unprecedented 65.3 million people worldwide have been forcibly displaced from their homes. The team also includes athletes from Syria, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

15 “By welcoming the team of Refugee Olympic Athletes to the Olympic Games Rio 2016, we want to send a message of hope for all refugees in our world,” said IOC² President Thomas Bach.

16 The Five from Kakuma include James Nyang Chiengjiek, 28, and Yiech Pur Biel, 21, who will both run the men’s 800 meter event; Rose Nathike Lokonyen, 23, who will compete in the women’s 800 meters; Anjelina Nadai Lohalith, 21, who will run in the women’s 1,500 meter race; and Paulo Amotun Lokoro, 24, who run in the men’s 1,500 meter event.

Parables of Resilience and Hope

17 Their stories are parables of resilience and hope in the face of overwhelming adversity. James fled his home at age 13 to avoid being kidnapped by rebels seeking child soldiers. Yiech fled the fighting in 2005 and ended up on his own at Kakuma. Rose, who fled her homeland when she was 10, had never run a race until a year ago, when a teacher convinced her to compete in a 10K. She was shocked when she came in second. Angelina says her main motivation is to help her parents, whom she has not seen or heard from since she escaped her village when she was six years old. And Paulo, who just a few years ago was herding his family’s cattle on a southern Sudanese plain, now says his goal is “to be world champion.”

18 They all know the eyes of the South Sudanese, and the world, will be on them.

19 “I know I am racing on behalf of refugees,” Paulo told a UNHCR³ interviewer. “I was one of those refugees there in the camp, and now I have reached somewhere special. I will meet so many people. My people will see me on the television, on Facebook.”

20 And Yiech hopes to inspire other young refugees, in Kakuma and beyond.

21 “I can show to my fellow refugees that they have a chance and a hope in life,” he says. “Through education, but also in running, you can change the world.”

1-United Nations

2-International Olympic Committee

3-United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

“From Refugee Camp to Rio: Five Olympic Athletes Inspire Hope and Resilience,” *Sojourners* by John Rivera.

Prompt 2: Construct a multi-paragraph, written response in which you examine how the incidents and information in each passage shape a central idea from each passage. Your responses must be based on ideas and information that can be found in the sources. [W.7.2]

Manage your time carefully so that you can:

- review the sources;
- plan your response;
- write a thorough response; and
- revise and edit your response.

Be sure to:

- include an introduction;
- use evidence from the sources to support your explanation; and
- include a conclusion.

Write your multi-paragraph response on your own paper.



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Grading

Answers Should Be Judged Based on Writing Rubrics provided by ODE.

-Prompt 1 should use the Argumentative Rubric:

[AIR ELA 6-12 Argument Writing Rubric](#)

-Prompt 2 should use the Informative/Explanatory Rubric:

[AIR ELA 6-12 Informative/Explanatory Writing Rubric](#)