



GRADE 6 LITERACY: CAN ANIMALS THINK? STUDENT WORK SAMPLES

**Grade 6 Literacy: Can Animals Think?
Annotated Student Work**

**Annotated Anchor Papers* for Each Primary Trait Score Point
Assessment Task 1**

Primary Trait: Statement of a central idea from a text / Explanation of how an anecdote supports that central idea.

Student A _____

State a central idea from the article: A central idea in Eugene Linden's article, "Can Animals Think" is that animals have high mental abilities to reason and be skillful thinkers.		
State the anecdote from the article that best supports this central idea	Explain how the anecdote you selected best supports the author's central idea	
In this anecdote, an orangutan named Chantek realized that he could do chores for rewards. Then he started to make replicas of coins that a researcher would give him and he also ate a whole bunch of grapes and gave his owner the stem. (Page 3, Paragraph 2)	This anecdote supports the central idea because by making replicas of coins to avoid doing work, Chantek shows the ability to be skillful and does this to be beneficial to him. Also, it shows he understands money and how to manipulate its value. Chantek shows reasoning skills when, after being asked to share and taking all the grapes to benefit himself, he offers the researcher just the stem. This shows that he knows he was supposed to share, so he decides to offer the researcher something, just not the grapes.	

* Student work sample content modified when necessary to achieve score point.
 † Instructional next steps are provided for only the primary trait or the "heart" of the task. Suggestions to improve achievement of a secondary trait(s) can go in multiple directions and the direction suggested cannot be determined until the student writer has achieved at least a satisfactory achievement of the primary trait.

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Student B

State a central idea from the article: The central idea in Eugene Linden's article "Can Animals Think" is that animals can think and react in different ways in different situations.

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State the anecdote from the article that best supports this central idea	Explain how the anecdote you selected best supports the author's central idea	
The anecdote I chose was about a killer whale named Orky who helped save another whale by letting a person stand on his head so that the man could reach a sick little whale (page 4, par 1).	This anecdote best supports the central idea because the whale wasn't trained to let people stand on his head. He just reacted to the situation and did what he thought he needed to help save the sick whale.	

Student C

State a central idea from the article: The central idea in Eugene Linden's article, "Can Animals Think" is, animals can think because they are able to use their brains to reason, and solve problems while also treating each problem differently.

State the anecdote from the article that best supports this central idea	Explain how the anecdote you selected best supports the author's central idea
Jonathan escaped from his cell after days of planning and hiding his plan. He figured out a way out of his cell even though it had a very special locking mechanism.	The anecdote I selected supports the authors central idea I selected because it shows an animal reacting to a certain situation. I also chose this anecdote because it shows an animal solving the problem of captivity.

Student D

State a central idea from the article: Some animals are sneaky when your not around they know how to do everything.

State the anecdote from the article that best supports this central idea	Explain how the anecdote you selected best supports the author's central idea
The anecdote that support my central idea is when the orangutan at the zoo picked the lock. On page 1	It relates to my central idea because when the people are there he is not trying but if no one there he is doing allot.

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Annotated Anchor Papers* for Each Primary Trait Score Point
Assessment Task 2



Student E

In the article "Can Animals Think," by Eugene Linden the author is trying to convince us that animals can think, and they do indeed have intelligence. Linden starts off his article with an example of orangutan who used a wire lock pick to pick a lock in order to escape a zoo enclosure. Linden uses this and other examples to show us that animals can make objects and use tools to accomplish their goals, especially if their goals involve escaping their pens. Later Linden says that the "master escape artists" are orangutans.

Other important signs of animal intelligence, according to Linden, involved early research trying to get apes to use human language. Apes like Washoe show us that animals have the ability to learn new skills and also comprehend what they are learning. Washoe learned how to use over 130 words in American Sign Language, or the language of the deaf, to communicate. Linden says that she is just one of many apes to learn sign language.

Animals also have bargaining and reasoning skills, two more signs of intelligence. Linden talks about a gorilla who trades pieces of a keychain he's hiding and uses them to trade for pieces of pineapple with his zookeeper. When the zookeeper offered him a piece of pineapple, Colo broke the key chain and gave her a link, thinking he would receive more pineapple if he gave her links instead of the whole key chain at once. Linden says this is another example of animal intelligence where an animal thinks about how to go about getting what he wants.

Another point Linden makes about animals intelligence is that although apes might seem like the only smart animals, they are not. There are many other smart animals and they have the ability to assess situations and find ways to respond correctly to problems. Besides apes, whales are also very clever. Linden describes a killer whale that figures out how he can use his own body to help save his baby who is in trouble. Orky examined the situation, and then swam under the stretcher allowing the baby to slide into the water within reach of help. This is another memorable example Linden uses to show that animals can think.

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Student F

Eugene Linden's article "Can Animals Think", talks about the possibility of animals being able to think. He used multiple examples to prove his position that animals can think. One specific example he uses is when an orangutan name Fu Manchu, broke out of his holding cell using a simple wire as a lock pick. Although Fu Manchu had broken out of his cell more than once, the head zookeeper didn't realize Fu was escaping. He thought his employees weren't locking the ape in properly, so the head zookeeper was getting ready to fire some of them. When he finally realized Fu was freeing himself, he was surprised by the animal's ingenious use of a simple tool to gain freedom. Be assessing this action Linden concluded that animals can think.

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Trying to further his point, Linden gives many other examples of animals thinking. Many of Linden's examples were on apes, but apes are not the only intelligent group of animals, whales are also very intelligent. One killer whale, an orca named Orky, rescued one of his young. His baby had been getting treated for some health issues after he was born. The zookeepers had removed him from his tank to give him emergency care and to feed him, but when they went to return the baby whale, he began to vomit. The zookeepers were afraid he would inhale some of the vomit and get pneumonia, but the whale was caught in the stretcher above the tank. Suddenly Orky figured out how he could save his son. He swam under the stretcher, allowing one of the scientists to stand on his head to reach the young orca, and take care of it. This shows that Orky has skills as well. He was able to assess the problem and figure out what his part in the situation should be.

The last example Linden gave in his text was of a gorilla named Colo who used reasoning skills. One day Colo had found an object in his cage and he picked it up. Realizing that the gorilla had something he should not, Charlene Jendrix went to get the object. When she saw that it was a harmless keychain, she tried to persuade him with some peanuts. Colo didn't respond. Then she tried a pineapple. She was only offering a piece. Colo decided that if he only gets one piece of pineapple then she only gets one piece of key chain. He broke the link and only gave her single piece, showing her what she needed to do to get the link. This shows that Colo used reasoning to get more of something he wanted.

Student G

In "Can Animals Think?" Eugene Linden argues that animals have the ability to think. Evidence throughout the text shows animals that think before taking action.

If an animal wants to escape its cage they create plans, as shown in the text. One day an orangutan managed to escape its enclosure. To escape the orangutan climbed down an air vent and onto a dry moat. He then used great force to open a door just far enough to slip in a wire, undo the latch, and open the door. Obviously to do this, the orangutan had to do a lot of what people like Linden believes is thinking.

A similar story is when a gorilla was hiding something in his hand and his zookeeper Charlene came in to lure him out with peanuts, but that resulted in a "blank stare." Charlene then offered a piece of pineapple so the gorilla revealed a key chain and gave Charlene a link. The gorilla maybe figured, "Why give her the whole thing if I can get a bit of pineapple for each piece?" This shows that an animal can show some skill in bartering.

Lastly there was another time when an orangutan escaped one of the most difficult cages. To do it he first tampered with something at the top of his cage. Whenever Geoff Creswell came to see what's going on, the orangutan was sitting by himself in a corner, as if nothing was going on. Then one day the orangutan was caught outside of his cage after using some cardboard to get himself out of the complex cage locking mechanism. This shows that the orangutan has high mental abilities.

The mental abilities shown through these events can lead one to conclude that animals have the ability to think.

Student H

In the article "can Animals think", Eugene Linden argues that animals do think. From all the incidents that has happened, what would it be besides thinking. For example, one young ape named Fu Manchu climed down some air-vent louvers into a dry moat to escape through a furnace door. He used a wire lock pick to pop a latch and slip through the door (pg.1 para.2)

Animals are very smart. When they want something they sometimes negotiate, like the male gorilla Colo. Colo had a suspicious object (a keychain) and used it trade for food. Charlene Jendry, a worker at the Columbia zoo offered him a piece of pineapple. "Colo then broke the key chain and gave Charlene the link figuring "why give her the whole thing if I can get a bit of pineapple for each piece?" When you negotiate you think of ways to bargain (pg.2 para.5)

A young female chimp named Washoe was taught sign language. "it has been easier to defeat communism than to get scientists to agree on what Washoe meant three decades ago when she saw a swan on a pond and made the sign for "water- bird". "Was she inventing a



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phrase to describe water fowl, or merely generating signs vaguely associated with the scene in front of her?" Washoe obviously had to think to create a word about what she observed. Animals do think. If they are able to free themselves; negotiate, and create words, they must have the ability to think.

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