

Link Literacy to Black History

The following texts and questions can be used to develop proficiency with extended-response questions and knowledge of African American history.

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What are important aspects of a student response to an extended-response item?

Most students write a summary/retelling of the passage. A response that is strictly a summary/retelling of the passage cannot receive a score higher than a “2.” One important question scorers ask when evaluating a student response is – *What has the response stated that is not in the passage? How has the student related/tied it back to the passage?*

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Chicago's First Leader

3rd Grade

Long before there was a city of Chicago, a brave man moved here. It was tough to live here then. There were no stores. There were no settlers. It was very cold in the winter and hot in the summer. There was a lot of snow in winter, too. So, it was hard to travel. In spring, there was a lot of rain and mud, and that made it hard to travel as well.

Then an early Chicago leader came here. Jean Baptiste Point DuSable was the first non-Native American to choose to settle in this area. This African American leader built a cabin on the Chicago River. He started a business by trading with the Native Americans. He opened a trading post there in the late 1770's. At first, it was just a small home. Jean Baptiste Point DuSable stayed for more than 20 years and added to it. His building became the most important place in the area.

Getting things to Chicago was hard. Chicago was a very small town. It was hundreds of miles away from the closest city. At first, DuSable traded only with the Native Americans and a few explorers. He would trade tools and other goods for things that they grew, hunted, or made. As more explorers came to the area, his trading post became more important. Settlers bought goods as well.

DuSable's trading post allowed explorers to keep going. They could buy supplies at his post and then keep traveling further. That trading post helped start Chicago as a city. When families moved to Chicago to settle, they could get what they needed to live at the trading post.

At the trading post, settlers bought many things. DuSable sold blankets, butter, flour, furs, knives, cloth, hats, guns, and gunpowder. Settlers and Native Americans both traded for these goods or paid money.

DuSable was the first person who helped people to come to Chicago and settle here. So, much later, Chicago declared him the "father" of the city because he made it possible to settle here.

Today there is a harbor and park honoring DuSable. That park is very close to the place he started the first Chicago business. Perhaps the biggest legacy from DuSable is the location of the city. His trading post was the starting point for the building of the town that became today's big city.

Based on what you knew and what you read...

Why is DuSable important to Chicago? Use examples from the reading and your ideas about what he accomplished in your answer.

Harold Washington's Acceptance Speech – April 12th, 1983

Chicago, IL

As transcribed by Hannah Lantos, from <http://www.chicagopublicradio.org/Content.aspx?audioID=15929>.

The following excerpt is from the speech that Mayor Harold Washington made when he won the election in 1983.

Tonight we are here. Tonight we are here to celebrate a resounding victory. We, we have fought a good fight. We have finished our course. And we have kept the faith.

We fought that good fight. We fought it, with unseasoned weapons and with a phalanx of people who mostly have never been involved in a political campaign before. This has truly been a pilgrimage. Our government will be moving forward as well, including more people. And more kinds of people, than any government in the history of Chicago. Today... today... today, Chicago has seen the bright daybreak for this city and for perhaps this entire country. The whole nation is watching as Chicago is so powerful in this! Oh yeah, yeah, they're watching. They're watching.

Out of the crucible... Out of the crucible of this city's most trying election, carried on the tide of the most massive voter turn out in Chicago's history. Blacks. Whites. Hispanics. Jews. Gentiles. Protestant and Catholics of all stripes. Have joined hands to form a new democratic coalition. And... and to begin in this place a new democratic movement.

The talents and dreams of our citizens and neighborhoods will nourish our government the way it should be cherished and feed into the moving river of mankind. And we have kept the faith in ourselves as decent, caring people who gather together as a part of something greater than themselves. We never stopped believing that we were a part of something good and something that had never happened before.

We intend to revitalize and rebuild this city. To open its doors and be certain that its babies are healthy! And its old people are fed and well-housed. We intend, we intend that our city will grow again and bring prosperity to ALL of its citizens. We have been victorious. But I am mindful that there are many other friends and neighbors who were not a part of our campaign. But that's alright! That's alright! That's alright! You never get 'em all! That's why we have a democracy. Because there are many opinions in a city as diverse and multi-ethnic as the city of Chicago.

To those who supported me, I offer my deepest thanks. I will initiate your reforms. But I charge you... I charge each and every one of you to rededicate your efforts to heal the divisions that have plagued us. Each of us must reach out, in open arms. Together we will overcome our problems, and restore Chicago to its proper position as one of the most dynamic cities in all the world!

Based on what you knew and what you read...

How are Barack Obama and Harold Washington alike?

Chicago is a City of Possibilities

ILS1B: I can analyze a text and write an extended response based on it.

Deval Patrick was a child in Chicago, living in the Robert Taylor Homes, a public housing project. Mrs. Eddie Quaintance, his teacher, realized how bright he was and arranged for him to apply for a scholarship. He got that scholarship and continued to get a great education and then good jobs. Today he governor of Massachusetts. Read his inauguration speech to learn about his ideas.

For a very long time now we have been told that government is bad, that it exists only to serve the powerful and well-connected, that its job is not important enough to be done by anyone competent, let alone committed, and that all of us are on our own. Today we join together in common cause to lay that fallacy to rest, and to extend a great movement based on shared responsibility from the corner office to the corner of your block and back again.

My journey here has been an improbable one. From a place where hope withers, through great schools and challenging opportunities, to this solemn occasion, I have been supported and loved and lifted up. And I thank the family, the mentors, the teachers - every one of whom is here today in body or in spirit - just as I thank the tens of thousands of campaign volunteers and millions of voters across the Commonwealth who shared this improbable journey with me.

America herself is an improbable journey. People have come to these shores from all over the world, in all manner of boats, and built from a wilderness one of the most remarkable societies in human history. We are most remarkable not just for our material accomplishments or military might, but because of the ideals to which we have dedicated ourselves. We have defined those ideals over time and through struggle as equality, opportunity and fair play - ideals about universal human dignity. For these, at the end of the day, we are the envy to the world. ...

I am descended from people once forbidden their most basic and fundamental freedoms, a people desperate for a reason to hope and willing to fight for it. And so are you. So are you. Because the Amistad was not just a Black man's journey; it was an American journey. This Commonwealth - and the Nation modeled on it - is at its best when we show we understand a faith in what's possible, and the willingness to work for it.

And I see above all the imagination, the compassion and the energy of our people. I see what we are capable of - not just as a matter of history, but as a matter of character. And I am asking you to touch that part of our shared legacy, and reach with me for something better.

I know that we can have more and better jobs, and a stronger economy. But we will need the best prepared workforce on the planet, simpler and faster regulatory processes, a stable and simplified corporate tax structure, and a more cooperative relationship between labor and business. Let's reach for that.

I know we can have better schools to support that emerging economy, and to prepare today's and tomorrow's citizens. But we will need high expectations for our kids at home as well as at schools, more flexibility in the classrooms and even in what we consider to be a "classroom," early education and after-school programs, and public colleges and universities every bit as well-supported and honored as their private counterparts. Let's reach for that.

I know we can have more accessible and more affordable health care for ourselves and our families. But it will take transparency among clinicians and health insurers, a system of care that makes more use of community settings, simplified administrative systems, and government stewardship for the good of the whole. Let's reach for that.

I know we can have safer neighborhoods. But it will take more community-based patrols, after-school and enrichment programs, summer job and volunteer opportunities for

young people, training and pre-release preparation for inmates, and sensible reform of both CORI and sentencing. Let's reach for that.

We know what to do. We know that our challenges were long in the making and will require long-term solutions. We know what to reach for. And we ought to know that either we invest today or we will surely pay excessively tomorrow. We know that investment in education today beats investment in prisons tomorrow.

Quick fixes, gimmicks and sound bites are not enough. That's not in the spirit of what built this country. That is not what cleared the forest and planted New England's earliest farms. It's not what inspired our great universities and museums. It's not what created the boom in textile manufacturing in its time or a flourishing biotech industry today. It's not what freed the colonies from oppression or the slaves from bondage or women from second class citizenship.

What has distinguished us at every signature moment of our history is the willingness to look a challenge right in the eye, the instinct to measure it against our ideals, and the sustained dedication to close the gap between the two. That is who we are.

Think It Through

A theme is a way of thinking about something.

What is the theme of this speech—the ideas that Governor Deval Patrick wants you to understand? Write the theme on the line.

He uses different examples to make that idea clear. List three examples from the speech that support the theme.

THEME: _____

Example

Example

Example

Your Vision

Governor Patrick shares his history and his hopes in his inauguration speech. Inauguration means beginning. He inspires people with his speech. He asks them to work together to have a better future. It is a persuasive speech.

Every January 1st is a beginning. Write a new year's speech. Write about what is important to you and the progress you want to make in the new year. Write a persuasive speech about your future.

**EXTENDED RESPONSE TO RELATE TO
AN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS READ ABOUT**

A legacy is something that someone leaves, something that helps people after someone has died.

Based on what you knew and what you read...

explain what you think about the legacy of this African American.
What is this person's greatest contribution to us today?

First, write your idea.

Then support it with information from the passage and your own experience.

From the Passage	From My Experience

AN AFRICAN AMERICAN POET

Grades 3-4 Text

Gwendolyn Elizabeth Brooks was an American poet. Her grandfather had been a slave. He was a brave man. He ran away from slavery. Then he fought in the Civil War.

His son married a teacher. They lived in Kansas. When Gwendolyn Brooks was a baby, her family moved to Chicago. Gwendolyn went to Chicago public schools. She grew up in Chicago. She stayed here for the rest of her life. She visited many places. But she always came back to Chicago.

Gwendolyn Brooks enjoyed reading and writing. She wrote about her life. She wrote about Chicago. When she was just thirteen, she wrote a poem for a magazine. Later, she wrote more poems. They were printed in other people's books. When she was older, she wrote books of her own poems. She became a poet. She was well known in the United States. She was also well known in other countries. She won awards for her poetry.

It was not easy to get a job in writing. Gwendolyn worked for a while typing. She typed other people's words. But she wrote her own words, too. She wrote important poems. They were read by many people all over the world. Her poems made them think.

Gwendolyn Brooks was also a teacher. So she helped students think more. She taught college students in the Chicago area. What did she teach them? She taught them how important ideas are in poems. Many people learned from her in those classes.

Gwendolyn Brooks won prizes for her poetry. Every year, more people read them. They loved her poems. She is well known as a great poet. She is an important African American woman.

When she was 83, she became sick with cancer. In just a short time, she died. She died in 2000. She had done so much in her life. Her life is an important part of America's history. She left a great legacy.

Based on what you knew and what you read...

explain what you think about the legacy of this African American.

What is this person's greatest contribution to us today?

First, write your idea.

AN AFRICAN AMERICAN POET

Grades 5-6 Text

Gwendolyn Elizabeth Brooks was an American poet. Her grandfather was a slave who escaped from slavery. That grandfather fought in the Civil War. He was part of an important era in American history.

His son married a teacher, and they lived in Kansas. The family moved to Chicago when she was a baby. Gwendolyn Brooks went to Chicago public schools. She grew up in Chicago and stayed here for the rest of her life. She traveled many places but always came back to Chicago.

Gwendolyn Brooks enjoyed reading and writing. She wrote about her experiences. She wrote about Chicago. When she was just thirteen, a poem she wrote was published in a magazine. In time, she was published in books and then had books published that were only her poems. She became a noted poet, well known in the United States and in other countries. She won awards for her poetry.

It was not easy to get a job in writing. Gwendolyn Brooks worked for a while as a typist. She would type other people's words. But she continued to write her own words. She wrote poems that are important to many people around the world. Her poems inspired them.

In addition to being a poet, she also was a teacher. She taught college students in the Chicago area. She taught them about poetry. She taught them how important it is to make your ideas clear when you write a poem. There are hundreds of people who learned from her in those classes. Probably some of them are writing poems. And most of them also read poems better because of learning from her how to look for the ideas they communicate.

Illinois has a special role called Poet Laureate. Gwendolyn Brooks was named Illinois Poet Laureate in 1968. But that was one year after she was poet laureate for the whole country. She was very clear that what is important is the ideas a poet communicates—more than the prizes a poet may earn. But she earned many prizes. She is recognized today as a great poet and an important African American who influenced many people.

When she was 83, she became ill with cancer. In just a short time, she died. Her death in Chicago in 2000 affected people all over the world. She had accomplished much in her life. Her legacy is part of your heritage.

Based on what you knew and what you read...

explain what you think about the legacy of this African American.
What is this person's greatest contribution to us today?

AN AFRICAN AMERICAN POET

Grades 7-8 Text

Gwendolyn Elizabeth Brooks was an American poet. Her grandfather was a slave who fled slavery and later fought on the side of the Union in the Civil War. He was part of a pivotal era in American history.

His son married a teacher, and they resided in Kansas. The family sought the opportunities offered by a growing city and moved to Chicago when she was a baby. Gwendolyn Brooks was educated in Chicago public schools. She grew up in Chicago and stayed here for the remainder of her life. She traveled many places but always came back to Chicago.

Gwendolyn Brooks enjoyed the literary pursuits of reading and writing. She wrote extensively about her experiences, but she also wrote about urban lives -- particularly those in Chicago. When she was just thirteen, a poem she wrote was published in a magazine. In time, she was published in the books of others, but she eventually authored entire volumes of her own poetry. She became an accomplished poet, well known in the United States and abroad. She won numerous awards for her poetry.

It was not easy to get a job in writing, so Brooks worked for a while as a typist, putting the words of others in print. But she continued to write her own words; these became important poems that inspired people throughout the world.

In addition to being a poet, she taught poetry to college students in the Chicago area. She taught them the importance of clarity in writing poetry. There are hundreds of people who learned from her in those classes, and several of them have gone on to write their own poetry. Most of them also read poems better because of learning from her how to look for the ideas they convey.

Illinois has a special role called Poet Laureate. Gwendolyn Brooks was named Illinois Poet Laureate in 1968, but this recognition didn't come until one year after she had already been named poet laureate for the whole country. She was very clear about her artistic priorities: of greater importance is the ideas a poet communicates—more than the prizes a poet may earn. But she earned many prizes. She is recognized today as a great poet and an important African American whose influence continues to be felt by subsequent generations.

When she was 83, she was diagnosed with cancer. Shortly thereafter, she died. Her death in Chicago in 2000 affected people all over the world. While countless numbers of people mourned her death, she had accomplished much in her life. She's an important part of Chicago history, African-American history, and American history, and her legacy is part of your heritage.

Based on what you knew and what you read...

explain what you think about the legacy of this African American.

What is this person's greatest contribution to us today?