

GRADE 8 English Language Arts **Reading and Responding: Lesson 25**

Read aloud to the students the material that is printed in **boldface type** inside the boxes. Information in regular type inside the boxes and all information outside the boxes should **not** be read to students. Possible student responses are included in parentheses after the questions.

Any directions that ask you to do something, such as to turn to a page or hand out materials to students, will have an arrow symbol (\rightleftarrows) by them.

Optional: At some point during the lesson, you may read the passage aloud so students can hear fluent, expressive reading and the correct pronunciation of unfamiliar words. You may read the passage aloud at any point during the lesson as you feel appropriate. The decision to read the passage aloud should depend on student needs, the degree of text difficulty, and the particular lesson.

Purpose of Lesson 25:

In this lesson, the tutor and students will

- read a fictional passage,
- practice answering multiple choice and short answer questions, and
- practice test-taking strategies.

Equipment/Materials Needed:

- Student Worksheet: Reading and Responding Lesson 25-1
- Student Worksheet: Reading and Responding Lesson 25-2
- pencils

Introduction:

Today you will apply reading, thinking, and test-taking strategies by reading a fictional passage and answering a few questions about it.

⇒ Distribute Student Worksheet: Reading and Responding Lesson 25-1.

Read the passage carefully and make mental notes to help you remember information needed to answer questions.

⇒ Distribute Student Worksheet: Reading and Responding Lesson 25-2.

After students have finished reading the passage and completed the worksheet, go over the answers together. Discuss the reasons for eliminating incorrect choices as well as the reasons for choosing correct answers.

Answers to Worksheet (Key words in the question and correct answers are highlighted.)

1. **Why** do you think Linda **did not like folk dancing in front of her friends**? Explain your answer.
Perhaps she was not confident in her ability to dance and was afraid that her friends who watched her dance would make fun of her.
(Accept students' answers that make sense and that are fully explained.)

2. Which word best describes **Linda**?
 - A. confident
 - B. poised
 - C. anxious**
 - D. enthusiastic

3. **Why** do you think **Ricky's eyes** were **glued to Mr. Wheelless and Ms. Anderson**? Explain your answer.
Ricky watched Mr. Wheelless and Ms. Anderson closely so that he could learn the dance steps.
(Accept students' answers that make sense and that are fully explained.)

4. "She would almost **rather** have a **test than dance**." Explain what this statement means. Explain your answer.
Many people get worried when it comes time to take a test. Linda compared having to dance to having to take a test; both activities make her worry about a failing performance.
(Accept students' answers that make sense and that are fully explained.)

5. Which word best describes **Mr. Wheelless**?
 - A. angry
 - B. talented
 - C. patient**
 - D. athletic

6. **Why** do you think the **music stopped suddenly**?
Mr. Wheelless wanted to find out why Linda was not participating and to offer her assistance.
(Accept students' answers that make sense and that are fully explained.)

THE DANCE

On Friday afternoon, Mr. Wheelless escorted the whole social studies class to the gymnasium, where the other eighth-grade class was already waiting. Then Mr. Wheelless announced, "Today we're going to learn a traditional South American folk dance. Ms. Anderson and I will model the moves and give you the instructions."

Linda gasped. She felt her palms growing sweaty. If there was one thing she did not like to do, it was dance. She especially did not like folk dancing with all her friends watching. Dancing was the most embarrassing thing in the world. Linda could not think of a worse way to spend last period. She would almost rather have a test than dance.

After the two teachers got everyone paired up and organized into groups of eight, Mr. Wheelless began explaining the instructions. Then he and Ms. Anderson demonstrated the complicated move. Mr. Wheelless patiently answered students' questions about the dance steps. He and Ms. Anderson repeated their demonstration. The other students seemed to be paying attention, but Linda could not keep her mind on the instructions.

"Okay, listen up," said Mr. Wheelless, "I'm going to put in the CD and we're going to try it. Get ready. Here goes!"

Linda glanced at her partner, Ricky, but he wasn't paying any attention to her. His eyes were glued to Mr. Wheelless and Ms. Anderson. Suddenly, music filled the gymnasium and the couples began moving to the right. Linda just stood there with no idea of what to do. Just as suddenly as it had started, the music stopped. Mr. Wheelless walked toward Linda's group.

Student Worksheet: Reading and Responding Lesson 25-2

NAME _____

1. Why do you think Linda did not like folk dancing in front of her friends?
Explain your answer.

2. Which word best describes Linda?
 - A. confident
 - B. poised
 - C. anxious
 - D. enthusiastic

3. Why do you think Ricky's eyes were *glued to Mr. Wheelless and Ms. Anderson*? Explain your answer.

4. "She would almost rather have a test than dance." Explain what this statement means. Explain your answer.

5. Which word best describes Mr. Wheelless?
 - A. angry
 - B. talented
 - C. patient
 - D. athletic

6. Why do you think the music stopped suddenly?