

Reader's Theater Exercise 22:

Build Test-Taking Skills With a Mini Script

This Reader's Theater Exercise focuses on how to ace reading comprehension tests, both standardized and for ordinary school grades.

The new Playbook®, **Questionella and the Perfect Prince: A Fairy Tale of Multiple Choices**, teaches a simple test-taking strategy in an entertaining way. The story makes a great stage performance and provides additional practice and guidance for the test-taking method introduced in this activity, so consider ordering it! Students will love participating in the story as Questionella must identify the REAL prince amongst three imposters. By answering this question correctly and also passing reading and math tests, she could be chosen to study with the prince at the royal University of Think-a-lot! It's a good thing Questionella has her tiny bookworm friend, Lil' Confidence, and the Wary Godmother to help her be prepared! With this activity, get a sneak peek at the creative multiple choice test-taking method taught in this story to share and practice with your students, using an excerpt from a different Playbook® story.

Many students who enjoy learning still have a fear of tests. They worry that they will not be able to focus, won't have enough time to finish, or will simply be too nervous to choose the correct answers! Aside from the general recommendations of always making time to eat breakfast, getting a sufficient night's sleep, and being familiar with the material you will be tested on, it is also important to know how to approach answering each question.

Teacher Directions:

Examine the attached Student Instruction Sheet, which overviews four types of multiple choice test answers, and pass out a copy to each student. After explaining the principles described on the page, have your students read aloud in groups the Mini Script, an excerpt from the Playbook® story, **Fairy and the Frog**. Use the chart at the top of the script to assign character roles to students in groups of four.

Inform students that they will be answering questions about the text once they have finished reading. When they have completed the Mini Script, pass out the attached Question Sheet, asking students to correctly answer questions about the excerpt and identify the four answer types discussed on the Student Instruction Sheet.

Answer Key to Question Sheet:

1. **A**

(A is Mr. Right, B is I'm Just Here, C is Next Best Thing, and D is Silly Billy)

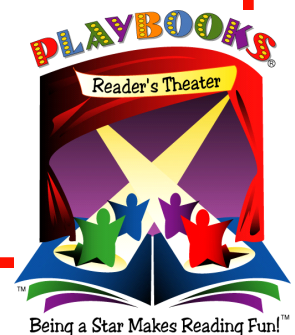
2. **C**

(A is I'm Just Here, B is Next Best Thing, C is Mr. Right, and D is Silly Billy)

3. **B**

(A is I'm Just Here, B is Mr. Right, C is Silly Billy, and D is Next Best Thing)

Remember, your students will enjoy **Questionella and the Perfect Prince: A Fairy Tale of Multiple Choices**, so be sure to check it out at playbooks.com!



Student Instruction Sheet

Many students who enjoy learning still have a fear of tests. They worry that they will not be able to focus, won't have enough time to finish, or will simply be too nervous to choose the correct answers!

Aside from the general ideas of always making time to eat breakfast, getting a good night's sleep, and being familiar with the material you will be tested on, it is also important to know **how to sort through your answer choices to answer each question.**

One way of thinking about the multiple choices on a test is to **place them into four categories, because many test questions provide four possible answers.** Some test answer choices are so silly that they are obviously wrong, while others seem like they might be right ... until you see an even better and more complete choice!

If you give each of the four categories a character name, it makes them easier to remember and to spot on the test. Read the four choices described below.

1. Let's call the first one the **SILLY BILLY** choice. This is the answer you know is wrong from the beginning. It's the worst choice of all. It will stick out like a sore thumb.
2. Let's call the next answer the **I'M JUST HERE** choice. It might contain a word from the passage you've read. But ... the QUESTION has nothing to do with this choice!
3. Let's call the next answer the **NEXT BEST THING**. This choice may look like it answers the question, but it does not fully fit all the requirements. Think twice before you pick it.
4. That leaves the **MR. RIGHT** choice! It satisfies everything ... completely! It answers the question and the point is clear. This is the BEST choice of the four.

Easy Sample Question: Next to each choice, write what choice category it fits into.

Who was the first president of the United States?

- A. George Washington _____
- B. a butterfly _____
- C. John Adams _____
- D. Winston Churchill _____

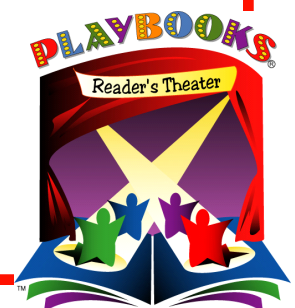
Answer:

Choice A is the **MR. RIGHT** choice, because it is correct. It fully satisfies the question.

Choice B is the **SILLY BILLY** choice, because a butterfly is not even a person and cannot be president.

Choice C is the **NEXT BEST THING**, because John Adams was the SECOND president of the United States.

Choice D is the **I'M JUST HERE** choice, because although Winston Churchill was a politician in office, he was a British Prime Minister and has nothing to do with the United States presidency.



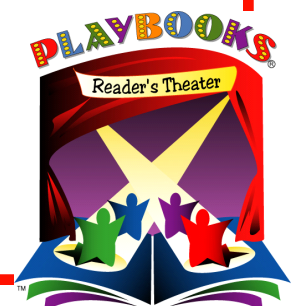
Mini Script: Fairy and the Frog *(scene)*

Character Role Assignment Chart

(Teacher will divide you into groups of 4 and assign parts)

Character Name	Student Name
George	
Pixie Lou	
Fairy Queen	
Narrator	

George	Well, Lilly, I'll see ya around! Hey, what are you doing tomorrow?
Pixie Lou	Probably nothing. It's pretty boring these days on the other side of the river.
George	We were going to do some fishing at the pond tomorrow. Would you like to come?
Pixie Lou	Sounds like fun. I'll see you in the morning. Bye, George. <i>(playfully)</i> Bye, Sir Walter.
Narrator	George and Pixie giggled as they went their separate ways.
George	See you tomorrow!
Narrator	Pixie flew across the river everyday for the next week, and she and George shared many wonderful adventures. George taught her how to fish, and she taught him how to skip rocks. Pixie had often felt bored living in the fairy kingdom, since all the fairies ever do is fly around and play tricks on each other. She was now having more fun than she ever thought possible. One day, Pixie and George had made plans to explore a beautiful, foaming waterfall. George said there were all kinds of slides and caves in which to play. Eager to begin her adventure, Pixie flew off the branch she was napping on and was almost out of sight before she heard her mother.
Fairy Queen	Where are you off to in such a hurry?
Pixie Lou	Oh, nowhere.
Fairy Queen	Your girlfriends have been looking for you all week. Where have you been?
Pixie Lou	I've been hanging out with a new friend I met. I'm sure I'll see the girls soon, though.
Fairy Queen	Who's your new friend?
Pixie Lou	Oh, no one you know. His name is George.
Fairy Queen	<i>(curiously)</i> Your new friend is a boy? Well that's a first. Will I get to meet this new friend soon?
Pixie Lou	I don't know. Uh, I'm sure you will. He's waiting for me, so I have to go. I'll be back for dinner!
Fairy Queen	<i>(to herself)</i> I hope that girl is not up to something! Hmm, George is an unusual name for a fairy.





Question Sheet: Fairy and the Frog

Directions: Circle the correct answer and then write whether each choice is **SILLY BILLY**, **I'M JUST HERE**, **NEXT BEST THING**, or **MR. RIGHT** on the lines provided under each question.

1. Pixie flew across the river to meet George everyday because:

- a. She was bored living in the fairy kingdom, since all the fairies do is play tricks on each other.
- b. She liked to fly.
- c. She wanted to see how far she could go without the Fairy Queen noticing.
- d. Walking would take too long.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

2. On the day Pixie and George decided to explore the beautiful, foaming waterfall, she was stopped when:

- a. She fell off of the branch.
- b. Her girlfriends asked her to hang out.
- c. She heard her mother ask where she was off to in such a hurry.
- d. She suddenly forgot what she was planning and did not leave.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

3. The Fairy Queen was suspicious about Pixie Lou's new friend, George, because:

- a. Pixie Lou doesn't have friends.
- b. George is an unusual name for a fairy.
- c. The Fairy Queen only likes girl names.
- d. George is a boy.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

