

**How to Ace High-Stakes Tests  
English Language Arts**

# **Precious Stones, Lost Forever**

**Ta hnatale, yan/ore koe, sio  
ne hamu ne drera  
hna hmutilu ri hne pathe  
hmen'ore hna pathe,  
hmen'ore hna walaya i meni  
cengeni me hmare thuben  
ha na luzion ha gupako  
kore hna ruace, koe ha  
kapa, ka matelot ha etha sic.**

## Master Story: Deep Six the Opals or We Mutiny

### High-Stakes Test Questions in Literature and History on *Ya nore nodei ia*, a Contemporary New Caledonian Song in the European Musical Style

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**STANDARD KNOWLEDGE - COMMON CORE ELA:  
CULTURES HAVE THEIR OWN STORIES TOLD THEIR OWN WAYS**

...to build a foundation for college and career readiness, students must read widely and deeply from among a broad range of high-quality, increasingly challenging literary and informational texts. **Through extensive reading of stories, dramas, poems, and myths from diverse cultures and different time periods, students gain literary and cultural knowledge as well as familiarity with various text structures and elements.** By reading texts in history/social studies, science, and other disciplines, students build a foundation of knowledge in these fields that will also give them the background to be better readers in all content areas.

**see also EARTH SCIENCE, EARTH’S SURFACES:**

Rocks, soil, water and living organisms comprise the earth’s surface.  
Some rocks are valuable because of their rarity, beauty and durability...

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*Read the two selections*

- 1) **MASTER BEDTIME TALE: DEEP SIX THE OPALS OR MUTINY**
- 2) **Ya nore nodei ia / The Voyage of the Animals**

“This song was composed by the nata\* Shene, probably in the 1960’s. It is based on the legend of how the animals crossed over from the Mare [accent e’gu] from the island of Tiga at a time of famine. The performance transcribed below was recorded in the 26.10.1994 at Tenan where it was performed by the mixed choir of Kaloi Cawidrone.”

**Ya nore nodei ia / The Voyage of the Animals<sup>1</sup>**

(1)A legend tells of the passage of the animals

They arranged to travel together to a land.

The buzzard will be the commander, I will be the pilot says the owl

Because I know where the pass is, the pass to this island.

(2)Mene the pilot was suddenly silent,

Men the guide is overcome by sobbing

The commander regrets, the ship is on the reef.

(3)They leave the island to travel during the night

but they quarrel over the piloting of the ship. Mene was finally chosen.

He shouts then, ‘this way,’ ‘that way ! while at the same time the moon rises and dazzles the pilot at the front of the boat

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<sup>1</sup> Kanak Dance and Music Song-Compositions in the European music-style. Ceremonial and intimate performance of the Melanesians of New Caledonia, historical and actual, by Raymond Ammann, first published in April 1997 Agence de Developpement dela Culture Kanak. pp 202-203

Ma hna nuebot'ore nod, hna  
 ya ri ridin' ore ridri  
 hma ethedone co paelatre  
 ca sererekana koi mener  
 meni ci kaie : nue icelu  
 nuelu ome, ha ci kwu te  
 Kore ceku  
 ri naca koe, paelatre ha  
 adrea

(4)The merchandise stuffed into the boat,  
 the riches were engulfed  
 at the bottom of the pass  
 because of the fault of mene  
 Precious stones lost for ever  
 Vain efforts, the ship is broken and the sailors have fled.

Ta hnatale, yan/ore koe, sio  
 ne hamu ne drera  
 hna hmutilu ri hne pathe  
 hmen'ore hna pathe,  
 hmen'ore hna walaya i meni  
 cengeni me hmare thuben  
 ha na luzion ha gupako  
 kore hna ruace, koe ha  
 kapa, ka matelot ha etha sic.

(5) Do you remember  
 that other journey: that of the apostles  
 Strayed at Gethesemani, taken by fear and regret  
 treachery and lying  
 they fled,  
 abandoning Jesus [ka Yesu di], alone on the cross.

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 Answer the questions that follow.

STANDARD KNOWLEDGE: CULTURES HAVE THEIR OWN STORIES TOLD THEIR OWN WAYS
<p><i>Both readings:</i>                      Which stanza is the most resonant to the tale?                      A. 5                      B. 1                      C. 2                      D. 4</p>
<p><i>Please answer the question, below, in no more than three succinct, full sentences.</i>                      What is the most important way in which selections A and B are related?</p>
<p><i>Please answer the question, below, in no more than three succinct, full sentences.</i>                      Identify any of the New Caledonian words by using the English translation.                      What do you notice about how this word was embedded in the original as opposed to in the translation?</p>

**STANDARD KNOWLEDGE: CULTURES HAVE THEIR OWN STORIES TOLD THEIR OWN WAYS**

*Compose a coherent essay properly using textual evidence to support your ideas.*

What is the role of sailors and the sea in each story? What is the role of the land? What is the role of treasure [what is the treasure in the song?]? Given all this, why do you think that these stories survived?

*Compose a coherent essay properly using textual evidence to support your ideas.*

The song is a Christianized version of an important tale of a voyage “to a land,” What stanza is the most likely to be Christianized? What is the link that is made between the voyage across water to land of the animals and the story of Christ’s end? Do you feel that the song is effective in making these links? Why or why not?

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*First People’s scientific knowledge of their lands, seas, and living organisms comes from interpretation of evidence over millennia across and within generations. The following question illustrates this cognitive sophistication using terms that you are learning today across earth and life sciences.*

**MCAS QUESTION OF THE DAY:****2010 February Biology, Biology - High School****Question 31 - Multiple-Choice**

*Reporting Category: Evolution and Biodiversity*

*Standard: 5.2 - Describe species as reproductively distinct groups of organisms.*

*Recognize that species are further classified into a hierarchical taxonomic system (kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species) based on morphological,*

*behavioral, and molecular similarities. Describe the role that geographic isolation can play in speciation.*

According to plate tectonic theory, Australia was a part of the supercontinent Pangea. Millions of years ago Pangea divided, and eventually Australia was separated as its own continent.

Which of the following is **most likely** a result of the isolation of the Australian continent for millions of years?

- A. Australia has no fossil record of species evolution.
- B. Australia has a large number of species that are not found anywhere else.
- C. Plant populations in Australia have all evolved to be self-pollinating to maximize their chance for reproduction.
- D. Animal populations in Australia have little genetic diversity and are less likely to survive environmental changes.

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*Write an argument in support of or against the statement in italics. Using textual evidence to defend your choice.*

The text of *Ya nore nodei ia* and the vocabulary of the life and earth sciences (seen above) have many similarities and some differences. *We should seriously consider the song as we design upcoming scientific research.*

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*Write an argument in support of or against the statement in italics. Using textual evidence to defend your choice.*

The text of *Ya nore nodei ia*, the vocabulary of the life and earth sciences (seen above) and the excerpt from *Leaves of Grass* by Walt Whitman, below, have many similarities and some differences. *We should seriously consider the song and the poem as we design upcoming scientific research.*

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To me, every hour of the light and dark is a miracle,  
Every cubic inch of space is a miracle, 25  
Every square yard of the surface of the earth is spread with the same,  
Every foot of the interior swarms with the same;  
Every spear of grass—the frames, limbs, organs, of men and women, and all that concerns them,  
All these to me are unspeakably perfect miracles.

To me the sea is a continual miracle; 30  
The fishes that swim—the rocks—the motion of the waves—the ships, with men in them,  
What stranger miracles are there?

Leaves of Grass, 226: Miracles. 1900 Walt Whitman

The text of *Ya nore nodei ia*, and the excerpt from *Leaves of Grass* by Walt Whitman, above, both capture the enormity and the everydayness of our presence in this world of only, after all, sky, fire, air, breath, force, time, land, water, and living things. Using these same elements and your human understanding of them, compose a poem of no more than five stanzas. You may use rhyming or free verse in your composition. Include terminology from the MCAS question of the day (February 2010) in your poem.

