

**How to Ace High-Stakes Tests
Complementary Subject-Area Texts
English Language Arts
Anthropology**

**130 years
& the Loss
of Opals
to Mutiny is
Still Fresh**

MASTER BEDTIME TALE: DEEP SIX THE OPALS OR MUTINY

COMMON CORE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS: AUDIENCE, NUANCE AND TONE

Standard 2: **Students adapt their communication in relation to audience, task, purpose, and discipline. They set and adjust purpose for reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language use as warranted by the task. They appreciate nuances, such as how the composition of an audience should affect tone when speaking and how the connotations of words affect meaning.**¹ They also know that different disciplines call for different types of evidence (e.g., documentary evidence in history, experimental evidence in science, [showing of compelling attention in art]).

Read the selection

MASTER BEDTIME TALE: DEEP SIX THE OPALS OR MUTINY

Part One: In Which We Learn That There are Opals Somewhere Down There, and Some of Why.

Answer the questions that follow.

STANDARD: GOOD COMMUNICATORS APPRECIATE NUANCES AND CONNOTATIONS
Tale part1:para1 What audience do you think the author is primarily writing for? A. a conference of geologists. B. a conference for historians of whaling C. very small children D. readers interested in true stories about whaling
Tale part1:para1 Which of the following did the author not tell us about the small cask? A. that its contents were believed by the sailors to be evil B. that the sailors believed the evil contents would doom them to a watery grave C. that the cask contained a particular thing' D. that the captain was not as frightened as the sailors
Tale part1:paras1, 2, 3 Does the author give any reasons for why the sailors found opals to be so evil and dangerous? A. yes, because they were very valuable B. no, we only knew they felt this way, not why C. yes, they would sink into the ocean, just like a ship would sink D. yes, because they were so very rare

¹ 1 COMMON CORE, statement on core purpose: "Students Who are College and Career Ready in Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, & Language" [is this from writing standards? Don't shift to that, but find its equivalent in non-fiction reading...] all terms in brackets were added by me

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Tale part2:para1

Please answer the question, below, in no more than three succinct, full sentences.

It is not known (yet) known exactly where the boat stopped dead in the water. Why do you think that the children hearing this tale imagined “that this must have been as far from land as it is possible to be, as deep in the ocean as it is possible to get”?

STANDARD: GOOD COMMUNICATORS APPRECIATE NUANCES AND CONNOTATIONS

Whole Essay

The writer provides facts, and is at other places mixing facts and descriptions of imaginings, dreams, stories. Assume the basic facts of this story are true. Given these facts, it is also possible to tell what are likely to facts and what are nuanced descriptions of how the protagonists felt and acted. Which of the following would you say is not a basic fact ?

- A. children have grand longings
- B. sailors believed the opals to be evil and dangerous
- C. on his last voyage, Annie's father (the Captain) had to deep-six a casket of Australian black opals.
- D. the writer is not capable of bringing these actual opals back to the land.

Whole Essay

Please answer the question, below, in no more than three succinct, full sentences.

What would you say that opals look like? (If you have seen them, feel free to use your sentences to describe what you have seen.)

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