

Would Annie Have Any Special Insight Into Gaia Theory?

One of the debates about the Common Core in ELA is how it shifts the emphasis on Literary Analysis and writing to non-fiction analysis, thus perhaps under-testing for literary appreciation (and not just literacy competence) that many teachers find vital to well-educated graduates.

Students taking the 11th Grade PARCC in English Language Arts do literary analysis, informational text (non-fiction), research simulation, and narrative writing, among other things. For instance, they read a five paragraph excerpt from John Gribbon's non-fiction piece, *Alone in the Universe*, written about the Gaia theory proposed by James Lovelock [circa 1965, although not specified].

https://prc.parcconline.org/system/files/G11_ELA_ReleasedItems_ShortMInformationalSet-ItemSet_Final.pdf

In this all electronic format, questions take the form of multiple-choice, sentence writing, and pasting of two different concluding sentences that are both supported by evidence that is then provided.

fountain.global is cousin to James Lovelock's Gaia theory, and many such. At least, as with Gaia, "it seems almost as if our galaxy [is] a giant warehouse containing the spare parts needed for life." The following series of questions for 11th graders explores Lovelock's philosophy, and can also be seen as in context of these students' learning to this date. Imagine if fountain.global was one part of this. Perhaps literary appreciation, based as it is on stories themselves could also be developed here.