



# ELA 8 Week 1

## Distance Learning

### Packet

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#### **Directions:**

- **Part 1 Directions**
  1. Read for 30 minutes each day.
  2. Complete the Independent Reading Log after you read each day.
- **Part 2 Directions**
  1. Read the passage.
  2. Answer each question.
  3. Complete the Question Justification Sheet for each question.
  4. Make sure you use textual evidence to help justify your answer and to support your rationale for why the other answer choices are incorrect.



**PART 1:**  
**Independent**  
**Reading**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

### Independent Reading Log

Day and Date	Title	Pages	1 question or prediction
Day: <i>Monday</i> Date: _____			
Day: <i>Tuesday</i> Date: _____			
Day: <i>Wednesday</i> Date: _____			
Day: <i>Thursday</i> Date: _____			
Day: <i>Friday</i> Date: _____			

**PART 2:**  
**Reading**  
**Activity**



Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

# A Rite of Passage (and the Importance of Penguin Etiquette)

by Chris Epting

1 There's a common expression, "No pain, no gain," which means that achievement requires some sort of sacrifice—mental sacrifice, physical sacrifice—something. Little did I know how important that phrase would soon become in my life, all because of an invitation to witness, up close and personal, some of the most fascinating (and loveable) animals on this planet.

2 When my fourteen-year-old daughter, Claire, and I found out that we were going to Antarctica to visit with and study the emperor penguins, we were thrilled. We had entered and won an essay contest. The grand prize promised an almost unfathomable adventure: three weeks living aboard a Russian icebreaker ship near an icy, remote outpost called Snow Hill Island.

3 Getting to Antarctica is no small feat. It is extremely difficult to fly there, as the official population is zero. The few who are lucky enough to visit this most mysterious continent do so by ships.

4 This is where the "pain" comes in. You see, to reach Antarctica, ships must pass through a notoriously violent area of ocean called the Drake Passage, considered to be the roughest stretch of sea on the planet.

5 Walls of water thirty, sometimes forty feet high—tremendous towers of dark green, icy waves—continually crashed about our ship for two solid days. We would hold on to a railing inside the ship while being violently tilted to one extreme side, then to the other, and then back again. Over and over and over, nonstop. If not for the belt straps on our cabin bed, we would have flown up in the air as we tried to sleep.

6 My daughter and I knew about the Drake Passage and were as mentally prepared as we could be. We knew what waited at the end of the journey—the penguins—and so together we convinced ourselves it was all worth the pain. But as mentally prepared as we were, we also had to be physically aware, as well. It was important to always watch our footing as we crept to the dining room each day to carefully grab a quick meal before returning to our cabin to ride out the sickening, never-ending storm.

7 I started to wonder, "Is this worth it? Will the gain be worth all of this struggle?"



- 8 Then, about two and a half days after entering the Drake Passage, the waters calmed. For the first time on our journey, we walked out on deck and felt the sweet bite of the cold, clean air on our faces.
- 9 Soon, we noticed small black specks on nearby pieces of floating ice. Emperor penguins! The closer our ship got, the more it seemed as if the animals were welcoming us—some of them actually beating their wings together, as if they were applauding our arrival.
- 10 Before long, we reached our final destination, and we were allowed to take our first ice walk. Across the crunchy surface, we could see hundreds of penguins in the distance, watching us as we watched them.
- 11 As we learned on board, their interest was to be expected. Penguins are extremely curious and not fearful of humans.
- 12 The next day, two helicopters that would take us from our ship to the base camp were assembled on the deck of the ship.
- 13 After landing, we were given instructions on “penguin etiquette.” These were the basic rules: You can’t touch a penguin, but they can touch you if they’d like. You can’t crowd them, but they can crowd you if they so desire. And you always give them the right of way. Beyond those rules, we were free to explore, photograph, and observe to our heart’s content.
- 14 We began the two-mile hike over the ice to the penguin colony.
- 15 Within several hundred yards, little clusters of emperors, perhaps ten or so at a time, greeted us, sliding on their bellies and making their wonderful noises, sort of a nasally squeal. But the real treat still awaited: the colony.
- 16 As far as we could see, there were emperor penguins—tens of thousands of them, stretched out to the horizon line. It was breathtaking. Thousands of newly hatched chicks waddled among the adults, vying for attention.



A Colony of Emperor Penguins  
at Snow Hill Island

Jonathan & Angela Scott/Getty Images

- 17 We found a quiet piece of ice, sat down, and within minutes were surrounded by dozens of curious emperors. In some cases, their beaks were just inches from our noses.
- 18 One day, two adult emperors with their three chicks in tow approached Claire, who was resting on the ice. They left the chicks with her, as if she were the babysitter. Twenty minutes later they returned to collect the chicks. And I will never forget the penguin that, when I jokingly asked which way back to the helicopters, pointed a wing in the correct direction.



Emperor Penguin Chicks

Frank Kraemer

- 19 Every night aboard our safe and warm ship, we thought about what it takes to survive in Antarctica, an incredibly harsh place.
- 20 But each day on the ice, we also thought about the Drake passage, that monstrous body of water we had to endure to get where we were. Over the course of our visit, we came to respect and even revere the power of that sea.

21 We still talk about the penguins, as I'm sure we always will. But we talk about the Drake too. Both experiences were unforgettable, and one would not have been possible without the other.

22 No pain, no gain.

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1 When describing the penguins, the author mostly focuses on their —

- A concern for their baby chicks
  - B friendly and entertaining behavior
  - C ability to survive in their environment
  - D dependence on one another
- 

2 In paragraph 4, what does the word notoriously mean?

- F Frequently traveled
  - G Hard to locate
  - H Recognized in a negative way
  - J Viewed from a distance
- 

3 Which sentence from the selection best conveys the author’s main message?

- A *But as mentally prepared as we were, we also had to be physically aware, as well.* (paragraph 6)
- B *Every night aboard our safe and warm ship, we thought about what it takes to survive in Antarctica, an incredibly harsh place.* (paragraph 19)
- C *Over the course of our visit, we came to respect and even revere the power of that sea.* (paragraph 20)
- D *Both experiences were unforgettable, and one would not have been possible without the other.* (paragraph 21)

- 4 The organizers of the expedition created “penguin etiquette” most likely to —
- F limit the interaction between the penguins and the visitors
  - G minimize possible negative effects of visitors on the penguin habitat
  - H create awareness among the visitors about the challenges penguins face
  - J boost visitors’ chances of observing tens of thousands of penguins each day
- 

- 5 Based on the selection, what did the author most likely gain from his experience?
- A An understanding of how animals survive in cold climates
  - B An interest in other journeys that involve physical challenges
  - C An awareness of the types of activities his daughter enjoys
  - D An increased respect for the power of nature
- 

- 6 What is the best summary of this selection?
- F When the author and his daughter win a trip to Antarctica, they board an icebreaker ship and travel through an area called the Drake Passage. During their time in Antarctica, they observe a penguin colony made up of tens of thousands of penguins. They must adhere to certain rules while they are there.
  - G Getting to Antarctica requires people to travel by ship through a rough area of the sea. After winning a trip to Antarctica to observe penguins, the author and his daughter make this difficult voyage. Once they arrive, they see thousands of penguins up close and know the trip was worth the suffering.
  - H The author and his daughter take a trip to Antarctica, where they have an opportunity to observe penguin behavior up close. They take photographs of the large penguin colony. Long after the trip, they still talk about the experience.
  - J After winning a contest, the author and his daughter travel to Antarctica and see penguins. Since there are no airports in Antarctica, they have to sail there through rough water. Once they arrive, they must take a helicopter from their ship over to the penguin colony.

- 7 Which sentence from the selection best expresses the author’s enthusiasm during his observation of the penguins?
- A *Across the crunchy surface, we could see hundreds of penguins in the distance, watching us as we watched them.* (paragraph 10)
  - B *Penguins are extremely curious and not fearful of humans.* (paragraph 11)
  - C *We began the two-mile hike over the ice to the penguin colony.* (paragraph 14)
  - D *And I will never forget the penguin that, when I jokingly asked which way back to the helicopters, pointed a wing in the correct direction.* (paragraph 18)
- 

- 8 Read this sentence from paragraph 8.

*For the first time on our journey, we walked out on deck and felt the sweet bite of the cold, clean air on our faces.*

The sensory language in this sentence best reveals the author’s —

- F sense of relief and accomplishment at having arrived in Antarctica
- G understanding of the extreme weather conditions in Antarctica
- H frustration at having been kept in his cabin for most of the voyage
- J feeling of anticipation to soon be interacting with the penguins

# "A Rite of Passage" | QUESTION 1

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

A    B    C    D

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.


**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

Incorrect Answer	Rationale

## “A Rite of Passage” | QUESTION 2

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

F    G    H    J

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.


**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

Incorrect Answer	Rationale

## “A Rite of Passage” | QUESTION 3

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

A    B    C    D

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.


**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

Incorrect Answer	Rationale

## “A Rite of Passage” | QUESTION 4

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

F    G    H    J

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.


**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

Incorrect Answer	Rationale

## “A Rite of Passage” | QUESTION 5

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

A    B    C    D

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.


**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

Incorrect Answer	Rationale

## “A Rite of Passage” | QUESTION 6

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

F    G    H    J

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.


**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

Incorrect Answer	Rationale

## “A Rite of Passage” | QUESTION 7

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

A    B    C    D

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.


**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

Incorrect Answer	Rationale

## “A Rite of Passage” | QUESTION 8

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

F    G    H    J

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.


**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

Incorrect Answer	Rationale