

# Kentucky Summative Assessments



## Grade 10 Reading Released Items 2022

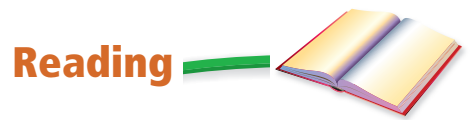
Directions: Read the passage from “Hard Feelings: Science’s Struggle to Define Emotions.” Then answer the questions.

## **from “Hard Feelings: Science’s Struggle to Define Emotions”**

*by Julie Beck*

*Originally published on [www.theatlantic.com](http://www.theatlantic.com), February 24, 2015*

- 1 When Paul Ekman was a grad student in the 1950s, . . . [m]ost psychology research at the time was focused on behaviorism—classical conditioning and the like. Silvan Tomkins was the one other person Ekman knew of who was studying emotions, and he’d done a little work on facial expressions that Ekman saw as extremely promising.
- 2 “To me it was obvious,” Ekman says. “There’s gold in those hills; I have to find a way to mine it.”
- 3 For his first cross-cultural studies in the 1960s, he traveled around the U.S., Chile, Argentina, and Brazil. In each location, he showed people photos of different facial expressions and asked them to match the images with six different emotions: happiness, sadness, anger, surprise, fear, and disgust. “There was very high agreement,” Ekman says. People tended to match smiling faces with “happiness,” furrow-browed, tight-lipped faces with “anger,” and so on.
- 4 But these responses could have been influenced by culture. The best way to test whether emotions were truly universal, he thought, would be to repeat his experiment in a totally remote society that hadn’t been exposed to Western media. So he planned a trip to Papua New Guinea, his confidence bolstered by films he’d seen of the island’s isolated cultures: “I never saw an expression I wasn’t familiar with in our culture,” he says.
- 5 Once there, he showed locals the same photos he’d shown his other research subjects. He gave them a choice between three photos and asked them to pick images that matched various stories (such as “this man’s child has just died”). Adult participants chose the expected emotion between 28 and 100 percent of the time, depending which photos they were choosing among. (The 28 percent was a bit of an outlier: That was when people had to choose between fear, surprise, and sadness. The next lowest rate was 48 percent.)
- 6 And so the six emotions used in Ekman’s studies came to be known as the “basic emotions” all humans recognize and experience. Some researchers now say there are fewer than six basic emotions, and some say there are more . . . , but the idea remains the same: Emotions are biologically innate, universal to all humans, and displayed through facial expressions. Ekman, now a professor emeritus of psychology at the University of California, San Francisco, with his



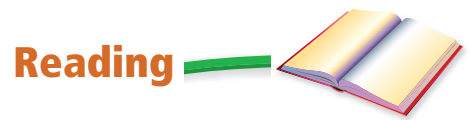
- own company called The Paul Ekman Group, was named one of *Time*'s 100 most influential people in 2009, thanks to this work.
- 7 But despite the theory's prominence, there are scientists who disagree, and the debate over the nature of emotion has been reinvigorated in recent years. While it would be easy to paint the argument as two-sided—pro-universality versus anti-universality, or Ekman's cronies versus his critics—I found that everyone I spoke to for this article thinks about emotion a little differently.
- 8 “It's been said that there are as many theories of emotions as there are emotion theorists,” says Joseph LeDoux, a professor of neuroscience and the director of the Emotional Brain Institute and the Nathan Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research at New York University.
- 9 The issue at the heart of this debating and theorizing is that it's extremely difficult to pin down what people are debating and theorizing *about*. Because there is no clear definition of what an emotion is.
- 10 The word “emotion” did not exist in the English language until the early 17th century. It made the hop from France to Britain when British linguist John Florio translated philosopher Michel de Montaigne's essays; Florio reportedly apologized for including the word, along with other “uncouth termes” from the French language. Uncouth, perhaps, because, as Thomas Dixon explains in his history of the word, it referred then to agitations, bodily movements, or commotions—there could be “public emotion,” for example.
- 11 For many centuries, the sorts of mental states to which “emotions” now refer were typically called either passions or affections. The ancient Greek and Roman Stoics were notoriously anti-passion; they taught that man should use reason to battle all feelings, in order to avoid suffering. The Christian theologians Thomas Aquinas and Augustine of Hippo thought that was a bit much, so they carved out a separate category of good, virtuous feelings, which they called affections—things like familial love and compassion for others—and distinguished them from “evil” passions such as lust and rage.
- 12 Around the mid-18th century or so, Dixon writes, these passions and affections were lumped together under the umbrella of emotion. In the early 19th century, Scottish philosopher Thomas Brown was the first to propose emotion as a theoretical category, opening the door for scientific research. But though he was eager to study it, Brown couldn't define it.
- 13 “The exact meaning of the term *emotion*, it is difficult to state in any form of words,” Brown said in a lecture. And so it has remained.
- 14 “The only thing certain in the emotion field is that no one agrees on how to define emotion,” Alan Fridlund, an associate professor of psychological and brain sciences at the University of California, Santa Barbara, wrote to me in an email. Many modern articles on the topic start off by referencing “What is An Emotion?,” an 1884 article by the influential psychologist William James, and go on to bemoan that science has still not answered that question. If a researcher does



propose a working definition in a study, it's unlikely that anyone but the author will use it or agree with it. The author might be categorizing emotions based on behaviors, physiological responses, feelings, thoughts, or any combination thereof.

- 15 “Semantics have to do with pointing,” says James Russell, a professor of psychology at Boston College. “By ‘emotions,’ we mean ‘those things.’”
- 16 In everyday life, the lack of a formalized definition of emotion (or any of the more specific terms that stem from it—happiness, anger, sadness, etc.) may not matter so much. It's not as though if someone tells you she's angry, you have no idea what she means. There's some level of understanding there. But ask people to explain in words what an emotion is (“explain it to a robot who's just become sentient,” is how I like to put it), and they'll quickly become stumped.
- 17 I asked a few of my coworkers to try and got responses like “individual-specific reactions to experiences,” “sensitivity to events,” “your mind's reaction to experience,” and, poetically, “the description of intangible human feelings, the powerful internal sensations that color our every experience.”
- 18 These definitions are all pretty good. They all *feel* right. But fundamentally, as that last person said, emotions are intangible. They are definitely *something*. They're not nothing. And that may be good enough for life, but it's not good enough for science.

From “Hard Feelings: Science's Struggle to Define Emotions” by Julie Beck, from *The Atlantic*, Feb. 24, 2015. © 2015 Atlantic Media, Inc.



1

RE924634642\_4

Why is this article entitled “Hard Feelings”?

- A** The ancient Greek and Roman Stoics were against any display of emotion.
- B** Research on human emotion is difficult due to the extensive travel required for collecting data.
- C** A scientific understanding of emotions is impossible because scientists think emotions are not real.
- D** A scientific understanding of emotions is difficult because scientists disagree on the precise definition of emotion.

2

RE924635968\_4

How does Ekman’s quote, “There’s gold in those hills,” contribute to the overall meaning of paragraph 2?

- A** It reveals that he expects to find answers in the remote hills of Papua New Guinea.
- B** It shows that he has found an area of research that he believes will make him very wealthy.
- C** It demonstrates that he feels that the key to human emotions can be found by traveling the world.
- D** It reflects that he has found an area of research that he hopes will yield groundbreaking discoveries.

3

RE924636612\_5,3

Which details from the passage **best** express the root problem with the scientific study of emotions? Select **two** correct answers.

- A** “When Paul Ekman was a grad student in the 1950s, . . . [m]ost psychology research at the time was focused on behaviorism. . . .” (paragraph 1)
- B** “. . . Emotions are biologically innate, universal to all humans, and displayed through facial expressions.” (paragraph 6)
- C** “The issue at the heart of this debating and theorizing is that it’s extremely difficult to pin down what people are debating and theorizing *about*.” (paragraph 9)
- D** “The word ‘emotion’ did not exist in the English language until the early 17th century.” (paragraph 10)
- E** “‘The only thing certain in the emotion field is that no one agrees on how to define emotion,’ . . .” (paragraph 14)



4

RE924634895\_3

What is the central idea of paragraph 11?

- A Emotions should be seen as a human weakness.
- B Emotions should be divided into several different categories.
- C Various ideas throughout history suggest that emotions are difficult to classify.
- D Conflicting theories throughout history suggest that emotions are not universal.

5

RE924635111\_2

What is the connection between the scientific understanding of emotion and the effort to define it?

- A The most important idea is that the definition feels right.
- B Formal definitions are insufficient to explain the human experience.
- C New words must be invented in order to understand emotions scientifically.
- D Formal definitions have lagged behind common experience throughout history.

6

RE924637232\_1

Which detail from the article is **least** relevant to the author's overall point?

- A “Silvan Tomkins was the one other person Ekman knew of who was studying emotions, and he’d done a little work on facial expressions that Ekman saw as extremely promising.” (paragraph 1)
- B “People tended to match smiling faces with ‘happiness,’ furrow-browed, tight-lipped faces with ‘anger,’ and so on.” (paragraph 3)
- C “For many centuries, the sorts of mental states to which ‘emotions’ now refer were typically called either passions or affections.” (paragraph 11)
- D “‘The exact meaning of the term *emotion*, it is difficult to state in any form of words,’ Brown said in a lecture. And so it has remained.” (paragraph 13)





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