

Kentucky Summative Assessments



Grade 6 Reading Released Items 2022

Directions: Read the excerpt from *Third-Class Superhero*. Then answer the questions.

from Third-Class Superhero

by Charles Yu

- 1 Got the letter today and guess what: still not a superhero.
- 2 *Dear Applicant*, not a good sign, *the number of qualified candidates this year blah blah far exceeded the number of available blah.*
- 3 I scan the list of people who did make it. A lot of them graduated with me. It's the usual assortment of the strong and beautiful. About half are fireball shooters. A few are ice makers. Half a dozen telepath/empaths. A couple of brutes, a shape-shifter, a few big brains.
- 4 One thing they all have in common is that every single one of them can fly.
- 5 I can't fly. I can't do much. On the other hand, it's not like I'm asking for a lot. I don't need to be an all-star. I just want a suit and a cape, steady work, a paycheck that covers groceries. Decent health insurance. But I'll have to wait another year.
- 6 At least I have my good-guy card. For now.

...

- 7 I was temping for a while to keep my afternoons free in case I got calls for tryouts, but those dried up and I needed to get a regular job for dental and vision. Now I'm a records clerk for a big midtown law firm. I like it because I don't have to talk to anyone or explain myself if I'm missing for a few hours. I just say I was lost in the stacks. People at work don't know I'm moonlighting. They think I'm an actor.

...

- 8 Part of the problem is my name. Moisture Man. Doesn't exactly strike fear into the hearts of the wicked.
- 9 For a few months last year, I tried to get people to call me Atmosphero. A few people did it to be nice, but it didn't stick—I think the problem was too many syllables. Shortening it to Atmos doesn't work either, because there's a physicist up in Seattle named Atomos who solves science crimes with a group that calls itself The Nucleus. The registrar says if I use too similar a name I could be sued for infringement. She suggested the name 'Sphero, but that's just plain wrong. Makes me sound like a force-field guy, and, anyway, -o endings are usually for villains.

10 So I'm stuck with Moisture Man.

11 A couple of years ago I listed myself in the phone book, which was a mistake, because you can imagine the crank calls I get.

...

12 My power, if you can call it that, and I don't think you can, is that I am able to take about two gallons of water from the moisture in the air and shoot it in a stream or a gentle mist. Or a ball. Which is useful for water-balloon fights, but not all that helpful when trying to stop Carnage and Mayhem from robbing a bank.

13 For years I was on a self-improvement kick. I read all the books and listened to tapes. I ordered everything there was to order by mail. Studied physics, how the big brains can change gravitational constants. I read history, I learned theory, the balance of good and evil, stuff like that. Still doesn't change the fact that I'm minor. Not even minor. A sideshow. A human water fountain.

...

14 Golden Boy calls me to pretend like he hasn't heard.

15 "Let's go celebrate," he says.

16 "Celebrate what?"

17 "You mean . . . ? Oh, not again." Of course, he already knew. He tries to be sympathetic, but that's not one of his powers. How can he understand? He's an EM¹. Destined for greatness. Able to manipulate electromagnetism the way other people chew gum. He graduated two years after me and he's already got his own squad. Made Class Three on his first try, Class Two three years later. As of next January, he'll be Class One and get his own secret hideout. I'll probably never see him again.

18 "Next year, man." He says he'll see what he can do about getting me some work. I want to hang up but I can't afford to. I need his help.

...

19 A couple of weeks later, I get a gig. I'm at work when I get the call. It's a mission. A real one. Golden Boy throwing me a bone. I don't know if it's out of pity or friendship. I don't know which makes me hate him more. But I'll take it. I go to my supervisor and ask for a few personal days. He says no. I tell him I have to quit on the spot. He says clean out your desk.

¹ EM - a superhero with electromagnetic powers



- 20 The turbo car picks me up in front of the law firm. Golden Boy is driving and Red Fury is sitting shotgun. I probably don't have to explain that I'm in love with her. She looks like a comic-book drawing. Her IQ is 190. On cloudy days she's a force to be reckoned with, but in direct sunlight, she is pretty much invincible. She waves at me.
- 21 I get into the backseat. Zero C is back there, reading the battle plan. He's an ice shooter. I don't know him very well, but he seems a little standoffish. Career-minded. "Try not to get in my way," he says, his breath freezing in the air.
- 22 Golden Boy tells me we're going to fight the Tricky Trio. I say that is a terrible name for a bad-guy group. He tells me to stay on task.
- 23 "We got word they are planning to steal a quantum computer from the university," he says. "It's four on three, our advantage." He said that to make me feel better, but I get the implication. It'll be a walk in the park. It doesn't matter that I'm basically useless.
- 24 We pull up and the bad guys have already done the deed. They're loading the computer into their helicopter, which is powered up and ready to take off. I take a deep breath and get ready to fight, but before I know it, Golden Boy and Red Fury are already out there. . . . Zero C looks at me. "Why don't you just stay in the car?"
- 25 I wonder that myself.
- 26 But I don't. I go to take off my seat belt but it's more complicated than it looks. By the time I get out there, two of the trio are down and Golden Boy has the third trapped in an energy field. Zero C whooshes by me and creates an ice prison to hold all three until the police arrive. "We work fast in the big leagues, chief," Zero C says. "Try to keep up." I try to explain about my seat belt, but no one's listening.

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1

RE012233152_2

Which evidence **best** supports the idea that the narrator has received a rejection letter before?

- A** “Got the letter today . . .” (paragraph 1)
- B** “. . . still not a superhero.” (paragraph 1)
- C** “I scan the list of people who did make it.” (paragraph 3)
- D** “A couple of brutes, a shape-shifter, a few big brains.” (paragraph 3)

2

RE012236915_3

How does paragraph 5 develop the plot of the story?

- A** By suggesting that the narrator is greedy
- B** By demonstrating the superpowers of the narrator
- C** By explaining the benefits the narrator sees in being a superhero
- D** By describing what the narrator hopes to look like as a superhero

3

RE012236322_3

Read this sentence from paragraph 8.

Doesn't exactly strike fear into the hearts of the wicked.

What does this sentence suggest about the name “Moisture Man”?

- A** It is a hard name for people to pronounce.
- B** It imitates the names of other superheroes.
- C** It sounds like a weak name for a superhero.
- D** It is a better name for a villain than a good guy.



4

RE012237150_4

Which evidence **best** develops the narrator’s perspective about his own abilities?

- A “For a few months last year, I tried to get people to call me Atmosphero.” (paragraph 9)
- B “Makes me sound like a force-field guy, and, anyway, -o endings are usually for villains.” (paragraph 9)
- C “A couple of years ago I listed myself in the phone book, which was a mistake, because you can imagine the crank calls I get.” (paragraph 11)
- D “My power, if you can call it that, and I don’t think you can, is that I am able to take about two gallons of water from the moisture in the air and shoot it in a stream or a gentle mist.” (paragraph 12)

5

RE012235679_2

What does the phrase “throwing me a bone” in paragraph 19 suggest about the narrator?

- A He is convinced that Golden Boy envies his powers.
- B He understands that Golden Boy is doing him a favor.
- C He realizes he needs to work to be as good as Golden Boy.
- D He is worried he will not get another gig without Golden Boy.

6

RE012234890_4

Which theme of the story is **best** reflected in paragraph 13?

- A Education is the best way to expand the mind.
- B One must learn from history to avoid repeating it.
- C With great intelligence comes greater responsibility.
- D Sometimes hard work is not enough to achieve success.

7

RE012235926_3

Which evidence from paragraph 21 **best** helps the reader understand the meaning of the word “standoffish”?

- A “reading the battle plan”
- B “I don’t know him very well”
- C ““Try not to get in my way””
- D “breath freezing in the air”



8

RE012233888

Directions: Move the correct answers to the box. Not all answers will be used.

Create a summary by moving the **three most** important details from the story into the box in any order.

The narrator describes getting crank calls about his name.

The narrator works with Golden Boy and his team on a mission.

The narrator receives a letter saying he did not qualify as a superhero.

The narrator talks to his friend Golden Boy, who tries to be sympathetic.

The narrator discusses his job as a records clerk at a law firm.

The narrator is told he cannot change his name to something similar to another superhero.

Summary of *Third-Class Superhero*



9

RE012235398_1

How does the narrator respond to the episode with the Tricky Trio in paragraphs 22–26?

- A** By admitting he is ineffective at fighting villains
- B** By expressing his desire to work as a team with the other superheroes
- C** By reacting strongly to the disrespect shown to him by the other superheroes
- D** By suggesting he is learning how to strengthen his superpowers for the future



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