Grade 7: Reading Benchmark

Paraphrase and Summarize

7.R.3.2: Paraphrase content from grade-level texts.

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Benchmark Introduction



Benchmark:

Restate a passage in your own words and express its full meaning.



Definition of Paraphrase

Restate a passage in your own words to express and understand the full meaning.



Purpose of Paraphrasing

Readers paraphrase to...

- interpret figurative language and figure out unknown words.
- more clearly understand the author’s meaning.
- consider the author’s word choice and purpose.

Example of Paraphrasing

Original text:

“I must not only punish, but punish with impunity.
A wrong is unredressed when retribution overtakes its redresser. It is equally unredressed when the avenger fails to make himself felt as such to him who has done the wrong.”

(“The Cask of Amontillado” by Edgar Allan Poe)

Example of Paraphrasing

Paraphrase:

I need to teach him a lesson, but do it without getting caught. A person has not righted a wrong if the revenge brings down that person. But the wrong is also not righted if the guilty person does not know who is responsible for the revenge.

Benchmark Skill Routine



How to paraphrase

Read closely and highlight:

- Identify the topic of the passage.
- Highlight figurative language.
- Highlight unknown words.

How to paraphrase

Paraphrase the passage by rewriting it in your own words to express the full meaning.

How to paraphrase

Helpful Tips:

- Translate figurative language to state the author’s meaning.
- Use context clues for unknown words.
- Chunk the passage by phrase.
- If useful, rearrange the order of the sentence.

How to paraphrase

Review:

Compare the original passage to your paraphrased version side by side.

- Have you expressed the full meaning of the original?
- Have you left nothing out without adding anything new?
- Compare with a partner’s and refine.

How to paraphrase

Consider the purpose of paraphrasing:

- What did you learn?
- What was the writer trying to say?
- Why did the writer choose the original words and phrases?

Remember

1. Read closely to identify the topic; highlight figurative language and unknown words.
2. Paraphrase the passage, leaving nothing out and adding nothing new.
3. Compare your paraphrase to the original passage and consider whether you captured the author’s full meaning.
4. Consider what you learned about the meaning of the passage and the author’s original language choices.

Benchmark in Action: Example of how to paraphrase



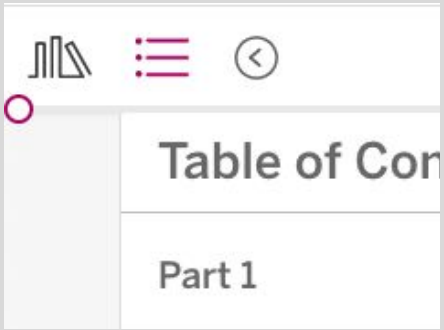
Get ready to read two passages in “The Destructive Male” by Elizabeth Cady Stanton.



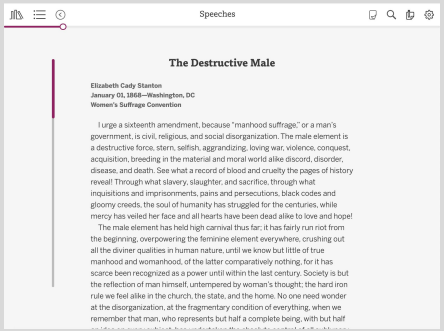
1. Open the Library app.



2. Type “Great Speeches from US History” into the search bar. Click on the title of the book to open it.



3. Click on the Table of Contents.
Find and click on “Elizabeth Cady Stanton 1868.”



4. Read from paragraph 1, line 3 to the end of paragraph 1 in “The Destructive Male.”

“The Destructive Male”

Context for Passage 1

In 1868 at the Women's Suffrage Convention, Elizabeth Cady Stanton delivered a speech outlining the need for women to use their voices to fight for the right to vote. While criticizing the male influence on government and history, Stanton also noted “effective males” as well as the benefit of “feminine perspectives.”

Read from paragraph 1, line 3 to the end of paragraph 1 in “The Destructive Male.”

As you read...

- look for clues that tell you what the passage is about.
- highlight figurative language and unknown words.

As you paraphrase...

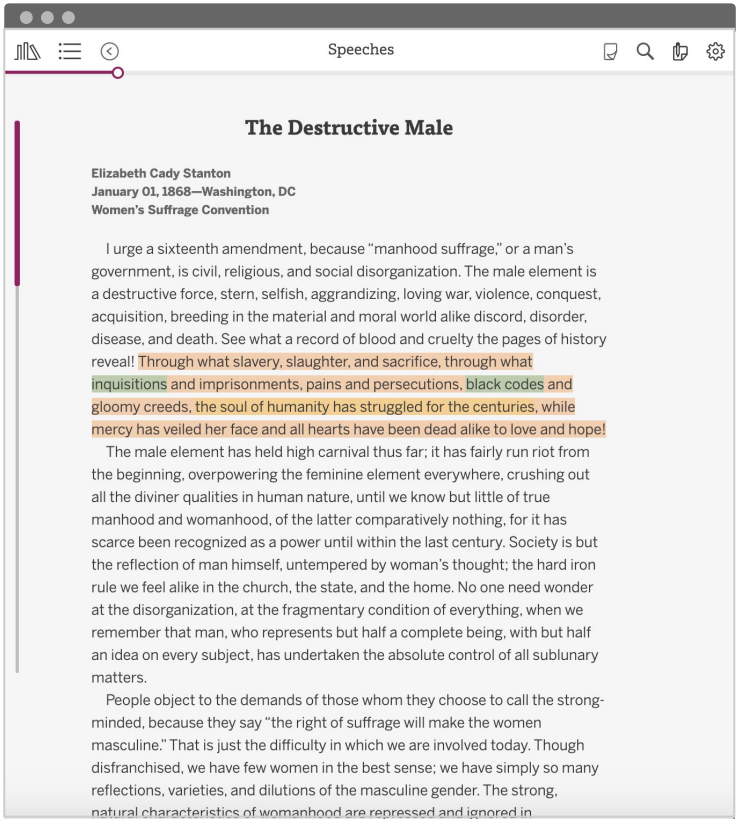
- rewrite the passage in chunks and rearrange if needed.
- translate figurative language to more simply state the author’s meaning.
- use context clues to rewrite unknown words.

Practice Step 1

Read closely and highlight:

- Identify the topic of the passage.
- Highlight figurative language.
- Highlight unknown words.

Practice Step 1



Read closely and highlight.

Topic: The past, when men were traditionally the leaders, is filled with violence and pain.

Figurative language: "the soul of humanity has struggled for the centuries"; "mercy has veiled her face and all hearts have been dead alike to love and hope"

Unknown words: "inquisitions"; "black codes"; "creeds"

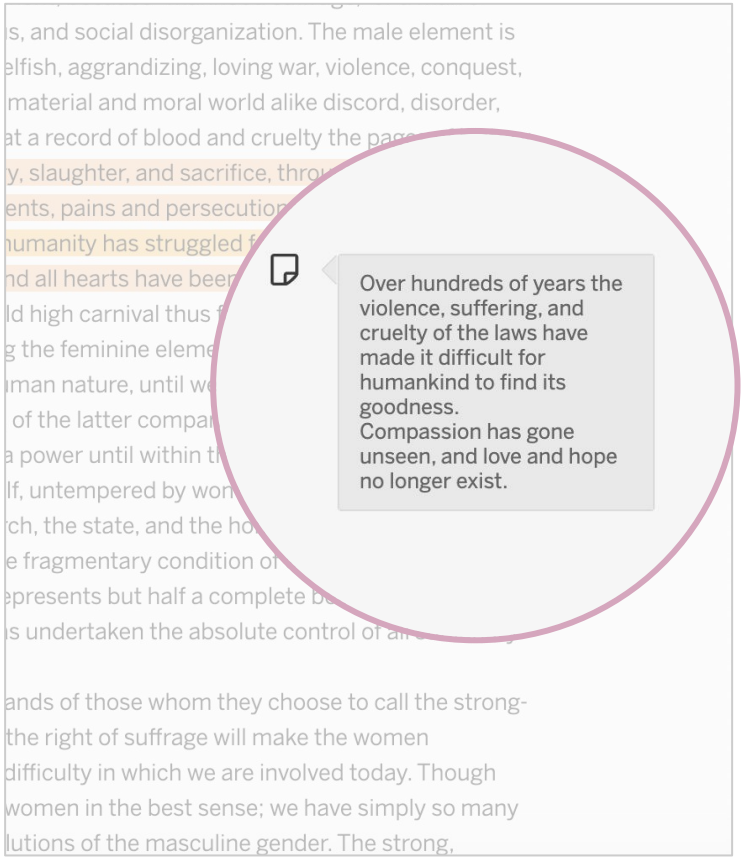
Practice Step 2

Remember:

Paraphrase the passage by rewriting it in your own words to express the full meaning.

- Rewrite the passage in chunks and rearrange if needed.
- Translate figurative language and use context clues for unknown words

Practice Step 2



Paraphrase of the highlighted selection:

Over hundreds of years the violence, suffering, and cruelty of the laws have made it difficult for humankind to find its goodness.

Compassion has gone unseen, and love and hope no longer exist.

Practice Step 3

Review:

Compare your paraphrase to the original passage and consider whether you captured the author’s full meaning.

Practice Step 4

Consider the purpose of paraphrasing:

- What did you learn?
- What was the writer trying to say?
- Why did the writer choose the original words and phrases?

Practice Step 4 Examples:

1. I learned that Elizabeth Cady Stanton felt that compassion and love were lacking in the male-dominated world, which explains why she thought women's voices needed to be heard.
2. The writer was expressing the ways in which society has suffered because only men have been in charge.
3. The figurative language "mercy has veiled her face" makes it clear that Stanton believes there is a lack of compassion in the current state. The use of personification really helps me understand the shame of a cruel and violent past.

Remember

1. Read closely to identify the topic; highlight figurative language and unknown words.
2. Paraphrase the passage, leaving nothing out and adding nothing new.
3. Compare your paraphrase to the original passage and consider whether you captured the author’s full meaning.
4. Consider what you learned about the meaning of the passage and the author’s original language choices.

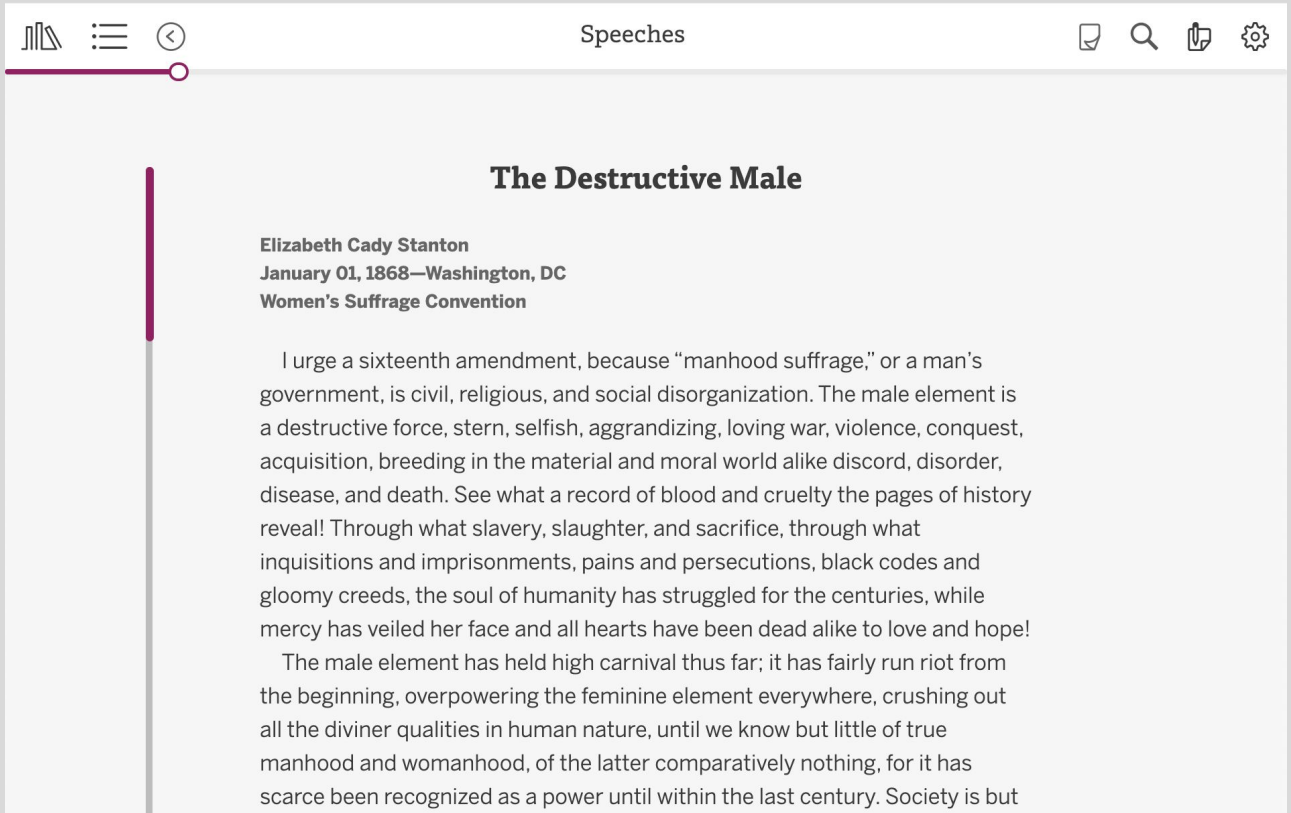
Independent Practice



Benchmark:

Restate a passage in your own words and express its full meaning.

Now read paragraph 2 in “The Destructive Male.”



“The Destructive Male”

Context for Passage 2

Stanton highlighted the need for both men and women to be involved in law and governing, citing the current state of government, churches, and homes as evidence that the feminine influence was necessary for progress.

Practice Paraphrasing

Step 1
Read closely to identify the topic; highlight figurative language and unknown words.

Step 2
Paraphrase the passage, leaving nothing out and adding nothing new.

Step 3
Compare your paraphrase to the original passage and consider whether you captured the author's full meaning.

Step 4
Consider what you learned about the meaning of the passage and the author's original language choices.

Check for Understanding



Share and Discuss

1. Identify the topic of the passage and highlight figurative language and unknown words.

Share and Discuss

2. Paraphrase the passage by rewriting it in your own words to express the full meaning.

   Remember:

   - Rewrite the passage in chunks and rearrange if needed.
   - Translate figurative language and use context clues for unknown words.

Share and Discuss

3. Compare the original passage to your paraphrased version side by side.
    - Have you expressed the full meaning of the original?
    - Have you left nothing out without adding anything new?
    - Compare with a partner’s and refine.

Share and Discuss

4. Consider the purpose of paraphrasing:
    - What did you learn?
    - What was the writer trying to say?
    - Why did the writer choose the original words and phrases?