Montana Comprehensive Assessment System *(MontCAS, Phase 2)*

Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT)

COMMON CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ITEM RELEASE
READING, GRADE 6

2008

OPI

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Reading
Session 3

Read this story about a family that lives on a Caribbean island in the 1400s. Then answer the questions that follow.

Star Boy

Michael Dorris

"Why are you awake so early?" my mother asked me that morning. "Are you becoming the same kind of flower as your sister, the kind that bends to the east and calls the sun?"

I didn't like being anything like my sister, who in fact is called Morning Girl because she gets up before everyone else, so I told a different story.

"I don't need sleep anymore," I said.

"That's too bad." My mother shook her head and smoothed my hair flat. "How will you dream if you don't sleep? How will you hear yourself?"

I thought about this problem.

"Maybe you're a bat," my mother suggested, smiling at me, "and will dream all day while the rest of us work. How lucky for you."

I thought of bats and how they race through the dark sky fast as late summer rain. I thought of how the wind would feel against my skin if I could fly.

"It's true," I said. "I *will* sleep today."

"And hang upside down from the limb of a tree?" asked Morning Girl, who always listened to what anyone said even though it had nothing to do with her. "I want to see that. Maybe I'll poke you with a stick."

"And maybe during the night I'll land in your hair," I told her. "Maybe I'll build a nest."

"Bats don't make nests," she pointed out, but still she raised her hand to her head at the idea.

"Maybe I'm a new kind of bat."

"What is it about the night that you like?" my mother asked, to stop the argument—but not just for that reason. She was truly interested and always listened closely to what I said. Now she stopped cleaning a manioc root and looked at me.

"I like . . . ," I began, and thought back to the white sand scattered on the sky's black beach. "I like the stars. I like to look down at them."

"You don't look *down* at the sky," Morning Girl contradicted. "You look *up*."

"Maybe not if you're a bat," my father said, his voice very serious. His eyes were still closed, and so it seemed as though his words came from nowhere. We couldn't tell if he was joking or not. "But no one is asking the right question," he continued. "Why *don't* bats sleep at night? Perhaps they like the same things as this Star Boy does."

Star Boy.

That was the first time I heard my new name. Star Boy. Before that I was called "Hungry" because that's what I was most of the time. I liked "Star Boy" much better. No one spoke as we all listened, tested the weight of the words.

Star Boy.

My mother smiled. "Who is talking?" she asked at last. "Who has found such a good question? Who has thought of such a fine name for my son?"

"It is the father of a bat," said my father. "The father of a morning flower. It is the husband of the mother of a bat and a flower. It is a man who is surrounded by people who talk when others are trying to sleep. I think I must be in the wrong family, since I am the only one who knows the value of rest. I think—"

My mother looked at Morning Girl and me with her eyebrows raised, then slipped a piece of clean fruit between my father's lips to stop his words. We all watched while he chewed. He still did not open his eyes.

"No," he said after he swallowed. "This is not the wrong family. There is only one person who knows where to find fruit so sweet, only one person with fingers so gentle."

My mother lowered her eyes, but she was pleased. "Why do bats like the dark?" she asked me, returning to our conversation. "Tell us, Star Boy."

When she used my new name I knew it was now mine for good, and at that moment I decided that I would become an expert, a person who would be asked questions about the night and who would know the answers.

"Because it's big," I said. "Because there are special things to see if you watch closely. Because in it you can be dreaming even if you're awake. Because someone must remember the day while others sleep and call it when it's time for the sun to come home."

My father opened his eyes at last, propped himself on his elbows, and nodded.

"Star Boy," he said.

45. Explain why “Star Boy” is a good name for the narrator. Use information from the story to support your answer.

Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Response provides a complete explanation of why “Star Boy” is a good name for the narrator. Explanation includes specific, relevant details from the story.
3	Response provides an explanation of why “Star Boy” is a good name for the narrator. Explanation includes supporting information from the story, but lacks specificity, relevance, and/or development.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of why “Star Boy” is a good name for the narrator. Explanation includes limited details from the story and/or is partially correct.
1	Response makes a vague or minimal statement of why “Star Boy” is a good name for the narrator.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

Scoring Notes

- He likes to look at the stars.
- He wants to become an expert on the night.
- He likes that night is big.
- He likes that there are special things to see if you watch closely.
- He likes that you can be dreaming when you are awake.
- He wants to be different from his sister, Morning Girl.

Score Point 4

Star Boy is a great name for the narrator because, Star Boy is interested in clouds, stars, and other important feachers of the sky. Some reasons why I belive this include: when Star Boy states "I like stars. I like to look down at them." or maybe when Star Boys father says "Why don't bats sleep allnight? Perhaps they like the same things as Star Boy?" or when Star Boy's mother asks "why do bats like the dark?" and Star Boy anwersers "Because it's big," Star Boy said "Because there are special things to see if you watch closely. Because in it you can be dreaming even if your awake. Because someone must remember the day while others sleep and call it when it is time for the sun to come home That is why Star Boy is a Great name.

Score Point 3

There are a few reasons why "Star Boy" is a good name for the narrator. First, he likes the stars. He descibed them as white sand scattered on the sky's black beach. Next, his mother called him a bat. Bats are awake at night and around all the stars. The narrator said he would do many things like a bat. He said he would sleep during the day and be awake during the night being around the stars. Those were a few reasons why "Star Boy" was a good name for the narrator.

Score Point 2

Star Boy is a good name because it fits his personality
It also is a good name because he likes the stars
and the night, he likes bats they are out at night
and his sister liked day and he did not want
to be like his sister.

Score Point 1

becese he liRes the dark
and stars come at at
night

Score Point 0

Star boy is a good name because you would name some on after a star.

Acknowledgments

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"Star Boy" from *Morning Girl* by Michael Dorris. Published by Hyperion Books for Children. Copyright © 1992 by Michael Dorris.