



*Approaches
to Literature*

Eskimo Approach & Franklin Technique



You are making progress! Choose the correct answers or fill in the blanks with words, letters or numbers as each question indicates. Read the entire lesson before you respond to the questions. Check your answers from the Answer Key. Correct all errors, then complete your next goal.

Read the section, "How to Succeed in this Course" in the text before proceeding.

1. Who learns to create beautiful art from ivory? Who teaches this skill?

2. What knowledge and skill does the teacher impart to the apprentice?

3. Where does this take place? _____

4. When does the apprentice begin his learning? _____

5. **Respond on separate paper.** In your own words, explain why you think the elder craftsman teaches the younger. (Think about: 1) the economic need of selling the art for income to sustain the family and village; 2) the responsibility that the elder has for preparing the youth for a successful future; 3) the perpetuation of village tradition, culture, and craftsmanship.)

6. How does the teacher impart his knowledge, step by step, to the apprentice?

7. Briefly explain who was Benjamin Franklin. In your response, include the dates of his birth and death. Research that information in an encyclopedia, as it is not provided in the text.

8. For what accomplishments and attributes was Benjamin Franklin known? (Complete your answer on the next page.) _____

9. Where did Franklin live and travel? Research that information in an encyclopedia, as it is not provided in the text. _____

10. How did Franklin hone his literary skills and become an effective writer?

11. Why was he able to articulate his thoughts so effectively? _____

12. What impact did Benjamin Franklin have upon world politics? _____

13. Practice your context clues: A *smith* is a person who works knowledgeably and efficiently with the tools of his trade. A *blacksmith* uses a furnace to shape metal objects such as horseshoes. A *gunsmith* designs, builds, and repairs firearms. A *wordsmith*, then, would expressively use _____ and construct _____.

Read Benjamin Franklin’s speech given in 1787 before the Constitutional Convention.

14. To whom was Franklin’s speech addressed, directly and indirectly? _____

15. What was the purpose of the speech? _____

16. Franklin began his speech by acknowledging that the Constitution was not perfect. However, he continued by implying that he and the other Founding Fathers should avoid what human flaw? _____

17. What three examples did Franklin use in the introduction to support his point that no one was ever in “possession of all truth”? _____

18. What was the first argument Franklin made in the beginning of the body of his speech?

19. What was the second argument Franklin made in the body of his speech? _____

20. How did Franklin support his second point? _____

21. **Respond on separate paper.** Paraphrase Franklin’s overall opinion of the Constitution. Include direct quotes from Franklin’s speech.

22. **Respond on separate paper.** Franklin cautioned the members of the Convention against voicing partisan divisiveness because it could cause the people to lose faith in the government, and the young nation would fall apart before it could get started. Franklin also made reference to “the enemy” who perceived the Americans as bumbling idiots, like the builders of the Tower of Babel, unable to unite in a cause and unable to accomplish their goal of creating a unique and effective government. What enemies did Franklin mean, and what was the importance of referring to the Tower of Babel? (Think about what happened at the Tower of Babel that caused the downfall of that society and its government. You may need to use an encyclopedia to research the Tower of Babel.)

23. What two ingredients did Franklin say were vital to the success of a government?

24. In his conclusion, Franklin encouraged what two actions by the members of the Convention?

25. In his conclusion, Franklin referred back to what concepts set forth in the introduction?

26. **Respond on separate paper.** What was *Poor Richard’s Almanack*? (You may need to research it more in an encyclopedia. Explain who wrote it, what it was, where it was published, when it was published, why it was so well received, how it was different from other almanacs.)

27. Explain Franklin’s play on words, “Indeed, we must all hang together, otherwise we shall most assuredly hang separately.” _____

Read Ben Franklin’s article “Rules for Reducing a Great Empire to a Small One”.

28. Look up the word *simile* in your dictionary. What simile did Franklin use in describing

the attributes of the English empire and how it would “crumble”, starting at the edges?

29. The first rule in destroying their own country, is to be sure that its remote provinces are not incorporated into the mother country. You may presume that Franklin was referring to what province in particular? _____

30. Franklin insinuated that the American colonies were treated with what bias by the British?

31. In Point 3, Franklin insinuated that even though the American colonies had toiled, suffered, and risked much to settle in the new land, at no expense to or help from the mother country, England intended to exploit the resources and loyalties of the Americans, with no just compensation, and even to punish the Americans for being enterprising and independent. In Point 4, Franklin furthered his argument by stating that England was constantly suspicious of every move the Americans made, accusing them of rebellion and treason. What threat did Franklin level at the British for their actions, and what was his reasoning for the threat? (You may need to research this more or rely on your prior knowledge of this time in American history.) _____

32. Why is word choice important in your writing and speaking? _____

33. Explain what *tone* is in writing. _____

34. What tone did Franklin use in his article “Rules”, and what attitude does it reflect?

35. **Respond on separate paper.** Explain what satire is and how Franklin’s essay “Rules” was satirical. Include Franklin’s word choice, tone, examples, details, and intent. Specifically, address how Franklin calls himself a modern simpleton and contrasts himself to an ancient sage. How did Franklin use the terms “modern simpleton” and “ancient sage” to present a false humility but in fact, was mocking the haughtiness and “wisdom” of the English? (Reflect on the idea that English society boasted of its ancient wisdom and looked down upon the American colonists as too young (modern) to have any wisdom.)

36. **Respond on separate paper.** Explain the satirical qualities of Swift’s “Modest Proposal”. Explain the tone and the follies in logic.

37. Explain what a parody is. _____

38. The parodies of the ballad of Joshua and Psalm 23 are what type of parody?

- (a) They mock the original works. (c) They use the formats to mock other ideas.
(b) They mock the authors of the works. (d) They mock the topics of the works.

39. **Respond on separate paper.** Use your research skills to locate a parody of another piece of literature and write an explanation of its parodiable elements. (Hint: use your encyclopedia or other resources.)

40. When you as a learner (student) are not able to comprehend or understand what is being taught, or what you are expected to do, what are some strategies that you can practice to help you gain control of the material?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

41. In an activity that asks multiple questions, what should you do? _____

42. In questions 1-6 of this lesson, what comprehension strategy was used to help you understand the text? _____

43. Go back through Benjamin Franklin's letter to the Convention, and his satire "Rules" and circle any words you do not understand. Look them up in the dictionary and demonstrate that you have grasped an understanding of what they mean. It does not matter if there are a lot of words you do not understand. Take the time to look them all up.

44. Reread the parts of the speech and article that you have trouble understanding.

45. **Respond on separate paper.** Compare and contrast the Eskimo method of learning and Franklin's learning style. Use study strategies to be sure you answer correctly. Before you answer, complete the following tasks: A) Find the key words in the question. Correspond them with key words in the text and underline them in the question and text. (Study Strategy 4) B) Identify what the question is asking you to do. (Study Strategies 5 & 6)

46. **Respond on separate paper.** Explain the Eskimo method of learning and compare it to a process, practice, or tradition in your own culture (your life or someone else's). Use study strategies to be sure you answer correctly. Before you answer, complete the following tasks: A) Find the key words in the question. Correspond them with key words in the text and underline them in the question and text. (Study Strategy 4) B) Identify what the question is asking you to do. (Study Strategies 5 & 6) C) Take notes on elements of your culture that will help you answer more thoroughly. (Study Strategy 2)

47. Write the **Life Principle**: “ _____ ”

The student should remember that this chapter is the most difficult. Subsequent chapters will not be so demanding. Once the student masters this chapter, he/she will be able to accomplish the others much easier and faster.

RESPONSES ON SEPARATE PAPER

Note to Teacher: The student should start a notebook for the duration of this course to accommodate all writing assignments required on separate paper.

Teacher’s Signature: _____

Activity Questions 5, 21, 22, 26, 35, 36, 39, 45, & 46 are to be graded using the Rubric in the Teacher’s Resource Kit (TRK).

Teacher’s Signature: _____

Activity Questions 43 & 44 are comprehension strategies that the student should practice in order to monitor his own understanding of the text. The student should show his work and demonstrate that he has practiced these strategies.

Teacher’s Signature: _____

Note to Teacher: Even though the student is able to self grade the other paragraph responses in this lesson (not designated for teacher scoring), the teacher is encouraged to familiarize him/her self with the material to be sure that the student is writing adequate answers and is being challenged in preparation for exams and entrance into college.

Teacher’s Signature: _____