

Step Up to Writing
Grade 6

**Narrative Writing
Baseline Assessment**

Directions:

Do not begin until you are told to do so. Once your instructor tells you to begin, you may use the time provided to complete all steps below.

1. Read and review the sources provided for this task on page 2.
2. Answer the questions on page 3 about the sources provided.
3. Read the related writing prompt and directions on page 4 and write your response.

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Source #1**Adapted from *A Woman Who Went to Alaska***

by May Kellogg Sullivan

Sunday, December thirtieth: This evening we all went out upon the ice for a walk. We took the trail to White Mountain, going in a northwesterly direction, and enjoyed it very much. We passed the cliff and the boats, the snow creaking at every step, and the moonlight clear and beautiful. We were out for two hours, and felt better for the fresh air and exercise. All old timers say that it is bad for one's health to remain indoors too much in Alaska, and people should get out every day for exercise. There is far more danger of getting scurvy by remaining in the house too much than from any kinds of food we have to eat. None of us wish to be ill with that troublesome disease.

About five o'clock Miss E. came in with a native from the station where the reindeer are kept. She started early this morning when the weather was fine. Lincoln, the experienced native who came with her, knew the way perfectly, and they expected to make the twelve or fifteen miles and get into the Mission early. Then the weather suddenly changed, as it does in this country. The wind blew, snow fell and drifted, and though they came safely through the hills, they lost their way upon the bay while crossing to Chinik. They wandered for hours in the snow storm.

Having no lunch, tent, nor compass, and no extra furs, they found themselves in a disagreeable situation. They kept on traveling, however, until they were satisfied that they were going in circles, as do all when lost in a snow storm.

Eventually, they were overtaken by two white men, lost like themselves, who would not follow the native. Thinking they knew better than he the way to Chinik, they went off by themselves. Miss E. says that both she and Lincoln had given up hope of getting here today, but after going on for a time in the storm, they saw a small, deserted cabin which Lincoln instantly recognized as being only a quarter of a mile west of Chinik.

Source #2

Traveling by dog sled in Alaska

Source #3

Average Winter Temperature in White Mountain, Alaska	
December	8.4° F
January	5.8° F
February	5.7° F
March	9.4° F

Source #4

Native Alaskans, early 1900s

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Questions

Directions: Refer back to the sources on page 2. Fill in the correct bubble to answer the questions.

1. Source #1, *A Woman Who Went to Alaska*, is mainly about

- Ⓐ the narrator's walk to White Mountain.
- Ⓑ the difficulties of living in Alaska.
- Ⓒ how to survive in the wilderness.
- Ⓓ travelers lost in a snow storm.

2. Read this sentence from source #1.

We passed the cliff and the boats, the snow creaking at every step, and the moonlight clear and beautiful.

The author **most likely** includes this sentence in order to

- Ⓐ establish that Alaska is a cold place.
 - Ⓑ illustrate how far the narrator walked.
 - Ⓒ show that the walk took place at night.
 - Ⓓ help the reader picture the scene.
3. According to source #3, which two months in White Mountain have the most similar weather?
- Ⓐ December and January
 - Ⓑ January and March
 - Ⓒ January and February
 - Ⓓ February and March
4. Based on both source #2 and the information in source #1, the reader can conclude that
- Ⓐ people in Alaska are always prepared for snowy conditions.
 - Ⓑ snow may be an additional challenge for travelers in Alaska.
 - Ⓒ dogs like being outdoors more than people do.
 - Ⓓ people avoid walking in Alaska in the winter.
5. What can the reader infer from the white men's actions in source #1?
- Ⓐ They think they are superior to the local people.
 - Ⓑ They are very respectful of the local people.
 - Ⓒ They are worried about Miss E. and Lincoln.
 - Ⓓ They have never been to Chinik.

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Prompt: Write a story about another adventure in a similar setting as *A Woman Who Went to Alaska*. You can use characters from the story or create new characters.

- Directions:**
1. Plan in the space provided below.
 2. Draft on the page(s) titled: DRAFT.
 3. Prepare final copy on the page(s) titled: FINAL DRAFT.

Checklist: Use this checklist to do your best writing. The items below directly relate to narrative scoring:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Include a beginning, middle, and end. | <input type="checkbox"/> Use an appropriate and consistent style, point of view, and standard English. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Present the sequence of events in logical order, with transitions. | <input type="checkbox"/> Revise for organization and content. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Create well-developed characters. | <input type="checkbox"/> Edit for proper conventions, grammar/usage, punctuation, and spelling. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Establish a clear setting. | <input type="checkbox"/> Proofread for a final copy. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use descriptive language, precise word choice, and varied sentence structures. | |

Planning Space: Use the following space to plan your writing.

