

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Close-Reading Questions

## "The Broom Dog"

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1. What do you notice about the structure and style of the introduction? How is it like a poem?  
(author's craft, page 27)
2. Choose any three things to which the writer compares a school bus. For each, explain what you think the author means. (metaphor, page 27)
3. What is the purpose of these sentences? (text structure, page 27)
4. What do these lines reveal about Canton in this moment? How do the whistle and the color yellow connect to what is happening? (simile, page 29)

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# Preparing to Write How Canton Overcomes His Fear

The writing prompt on page 31 says:

**What is Canton afraid of? How does he overcome his fear? Answer both questions in a well-organized essay. Support your ideas with text evidence.**

Follow the directions below to help you plan your essay.

## Step 1

### Text Marking

Follow the directions below to mark your copy of "The Broom Dog." Alternatively, you can write the lines on another sheet of paper or in a document on a computer. Be sure to note the page number for where each line or group of lines comes from.

- A.** Choose a colored pencil. Use it to mark lines in the story that reveal what Canton is afraid of.
- B.** Choose a different colored pencil. Use it to mark lines in the story that reveal how Canton overcomes his fear.

## Step 2

### Writing Your Key Points

Write a one- to two-sentence answer to each of the following questions:

- A.** What is Canton afraid of?

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- B.** How does Canton overcome his fear?

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# Step 3

## Writing Your First Draft

It's time to write the first draft of your essay. Here are some guidelines.

### Introduction

Your first paragraph should state the name of the story you are writing about and its author. It should also provide short, clear answers to the two questions "What is Canton afraid of?" and "How does he overcome his fear?" You can use what you wrote in Step 2, editing your answers as needed to create a smoothly flowing paragraph.

### Body Paragraphs

Write two or three paragraphs in which you give more details about your key points and support them with text evidence. (You already found your text evidence in Step 1. You probably won't need to include *all* of what you marked, though.) You can summarize events in the story, paraphrase lines, or quote lines directly. Be sure to make it clear HOW your text evidence supports your key points.

### Conclusion

Write a paragraph summing it all up. Remind your reader of your key points. Finish with a strong final sentence.

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## “The Broom Dog” Quiz

**Directions:** Read “The Broom Dog.” Then answer the questions below.

1. After Canton’s mother’s accident, the broom dog
  - (A) embarrasses Canton.
  - (B) comforts Canton when he is anxious.
  - (C) reminds Canton of his mother.
  - (D) makes Canton want a real dog.
  
2. Which line BEST supports your answer to question 1?
  - (A) “Canton stood, the broom dog falling from his lap like he had forgotten it was there.” (p. 31)
  - (B) “It’s . . . a broom.” (p. 30)
  - (C) “Eventually, he named it Dusty.” (p. 30)
  - (D) “And whenever Ms. Post had to step into the street, blow her whistle . . . whenever Canton’s chest would inflate like a balloon, he would run his fingers through the broom dog’s hair.” (p. 30)
  
3. On page 27, author Jason Reynolds writes that to Canton, crossing guards’ vests “were capes, and their whistles blew some kind of magic tone . . .” This line \_\_\_\_\_. (Choose TWO answers.)
  - (A) explains why Ms. Post got hit by a bus
  - (B) helps readers imagine the sound of a whistle
  - (C) compares crossing guards to superheroes
  - (D) shows that before his mother’s accident, Canton did not think being a crossing guard was dangerous
  
4. Reynolds helps develop the idea that Canton is worried about his mother’s safety in all of the following ways EXCEPT which?
  - (A) by explaining that Canton has insisted on getting to the corner “before the first cross” each day since the accident
  - (B) by describing Canton petting the broom dog for comfort while he watches Ms. Post work
  - (C) by describing Canton tossing the broom dog in the air at the end of the story
  - (D) by describing Canton’s panic attack the day Ms. Post returns to work
  
5. On page 31, Reynolds writes, “Canton stood, the broom dog falling from his lap like he had forgotten it was there.” This detail tells you that
  - (A) Canton is beginning to overcome his fears about his mother’s safety.
  - (B) Canton is forgetful.
  - (C) Canton doesn’t think the broom dog is helpful.
  - (D) Canton doesn’t take care of the broom dog.
  
6. Which detail would be LEAST important to include in a summary of the story?
  - (A) Mr. Munch gives Canton the broom dog.
  - (B) Canton names the broom dog Dusty.
  - (C) Canton has anxiety after his mother’s accident.
  - (D) Ms. Post gets hit by a school bus.

### Constructed-Response Question



**Directions:** Write your answer in a well-organized response.

7. Describe the relationship between Mr. Munch and Canton. Support your analysis with text evidence.

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  - (D) “And whenever Ms. Post had to step into the street, blow her whistle . . . whenever Canton’s chest would inflate like a balloon, he would run his fingers through the broom dog’s hair.” (p. 30)
  
3. On page 27, author Jason Reynolds writes, “To Canton, crossing guards, and especially his mother, seemed to have special powers.” This line helps you understand that Canton \_\_\_\_\_. (Choose TWO answers.)
  - (A) loved superhero movies
  - (B) had never seen his mom stop traffic
  - (C) saw his mom as powerful
  - (D) did not think being a crossing guard was dangerous
  
4. Why does Canton insist on getting to the corner “before the first cross” each day after his mother’s accident?
  - (A) He likes to watch his mother work.
  - (B) He wants to be the first one to cross the street after school.
  - (C) He is worried about his mother’s safety.
  - (D) He enjoys watching his classmates cross the street.
  
5. Which line from page 31 tells you that Canton is beginning to overcome his fears?
  - (A) “Canton stood, the broom dog falling from his lap like he had forgotten it was there.”
  - (B) “Sheesh. This thing has seen better days.”
  - (C) “Watched his mother perform a kind of ballet.”
  - (D) “They stood on the corner, looked both ways before they crossed the street.”
  
6. Which detail would be MOST important to include in a summary of the story?
  - (A) Canton names the broom dog Dusty.
  - (B) Canton suffers from anxiety after his mom gets hit by a school bus.
  - (C) Mr. Munch’s wife has an emotional support dog.
  - (D) Ms. Post has been a crossing guard for many years.

### Constructed-Response Question



**Directions:** Write your answer in a well-organized response.

7. Give at least three details from the story that show that Mr. Munch and Canton have a close relationship. Explain how each detail shows this.

Note: *Scope* does not accept Google Docs. If you are e-mailing your entry, please send a .pdf or .doc file.

## Broom Dog Contest

What is Canton afraid of? How does he overcome his fear? Answer both questions in a well-organized essay. Support your ideas with text evidence. Five winners will each get *Look Both Ways* by Jason Reynolds.

### Entries will be judged on:

- ⇒ a clearly stated central idea
- ⇒ clarity and organization
- ⇒ use of supporting text evidence
- ⇒ grammar, spelling, and punctuation

My name: \_\_\_\_\_

My home phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ My grade: \_\_\_\_\_

My teacher's name: \_\_\_\_\_ My teacher's e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

School name: \_\_\_\_\_

School address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

School phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

My parent or legal guardian consents  
to my participation in this contest.

Parent's or legal guardian's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Include this form with your entry and send both to: [scopemag@scholastic.com](mailto:scopemag@scholastic.com)  
or mail them to: Broom Dog Contest, c/o *Scope*, P.O. Box 712, New York, NY 10013-0712

**ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 20, 2020!**