ISTEP+
Grade 5 Writing

Project Mulberry

Practice Set 1
Directions
Read this excerpt from Project Mulberry. Then answer the questions.

Excerpt from Project Mulberry
by Linda Sue Park

In this excerpt from the book Project Mulberry, Patrick and Julia are working together on a project. They want to collect two of the unique state quarters for each of the fifty states.

Chapter 2
1 “Wait,” I said, stopping in the doorway. “Come back."
2 Patrick was almost at the stairs. “What?” he said.
3 “Everything in your pockets, please,” I said, holding out my hand. “Unless you’ve checked already?”
4 “Um, no,” Patrick muttered. “Okay, here.” He reached into his jeans pocket, took out the contents, and showed me: A quarter, two pennies, a paper clip, a ball of lint, and a rather furry-looking cough drop.
5 “Yuck,” I said, pointing to the cough drop. “Is that the same one from last time?”
6 He grinned. “Probably."
7 I took the quarter from him. We looked at it together.
8 Patrick and I were collecting and studying state quarters. We’d bought special folders that had a slot for each one. Patrick kept track of which ones we needed, and looked up information about the little images on the backs of the quarters—the horse for Kentucky, the tree for Connecticut. He also had a little notebook to record when and where we found each one.
9 I was in charge of finding the quarters. That was pretty much the way we
always worked. Patrick did the reading part, the research. I did the hands-on stuff—whatever needed to be cut and pasted or built or painted or sewn. Of course, we weren’t very strict about it. Sometimes I’d do some of the reading, and Patrick would help with the making part. But we had our main jobs, and it suited us both.

Like with the quarters. To me, the exciting part was looking for them; whenever I got a quarter, I checked it out right away. That part drove Patrick crazy. He almost always forgot to look at his quarters—I had to remind him most of the time—and if he remembered, they usually weren’t the right ones. But he loved looking up the stories about the pictures on the coins.

Connecticut was my favorite quarter. It was Patrick’s favorite, too. I liked it because the tree was so pretty; I wondered how hard it had been for someone to carve all those tiny branches. And maybe I also liked it because it was on my mind a lot: I was having no luck finding a second Connecticut. I had two quarters from lots of other states, but still only one Connecticut.

Patrick liked Connecticut because of the story about the tree. It was sort of a spy story. Way back in colonial times, the king of England tried to take away Connecticut’s government charter. There was this meeting where the king’s men were going to tear up the charter, and suddenly the candles got blown out so the room was all dark, and when they got the candles lit again, the charter was gone. Some guy had escaped with it, and hid it in a hollow tree—the tree on the coin. It even has “The Charter Oak” in teeny letters.

We never put the quarters into the folders until I’d found two of the same state, so both of our Connecticut slots were still empty.

I turned over Patrick’s quarter.

“New York,” I said.

“Dang it.”

We already had our New Yorks.
The narrator, Julia, and her friend, Patrick, work together on their state quarters project. Based on the excerpt, write an essay describing how their characters are similar and different, and explain whether their personalities make it easy or difficult for them to work together.

Be sure to include

- an explanation of whether it is easy or difficult for them to work together
- examples from the excerpt of how the characters are similar and different
- an introduction, a body, and a conclusion for your essay

Use the following Prewriting/Planning page to help you plan your writing. Then write your final draft on the lined pages.
Julia and Patrick are really good friends. One of the main things that bring the two together is coin hunting. Julia and Patrick search for state quarters and once they find them, they study them. It is their favorite thing to do, and the best part is that they do it together.

Julia and Patrick are very different, but their love of learning new things and finding quarters brings them together. One of the main differences between them is why they are interested in coin hunting. For example, Julia enjoys the hands-on experience. She likes searching for the coins and examining their physical features, whereas Patrick enjoys researching the history of the coins. They may have their differences, but Patrick and Julia's one main similarity is what really brings them together. They both love learning new things. Collecting quarters is the perfect hobby for both of them.

As stated in my last paragraph, Julia and Patrick have many differences, but that doesn't stop them from making a
terrific team. As partners, Julia and Patrick must work together to find all of the state quarters. In the excerpt, it was stated that Julia and Patrick had a certain job that each of them typically performed to contribute to their hobby. While Julia searched for the quarters, Patrick would record where the quarters were found and when. Their typical jobs did not dictate what each one had to do every day, the team just used their talents and interests to help contribute to the quarter project. Another example of how the duo helps each other is how they remind each other to examine and research the quarters. When Julia or Patrick finds a coin, the other one almost always reminds the other to research the coin and add it to the coin folders they use for storage.

In conclusion, Julia and Patrick are great friends and enjoy sharing their hobby. Despite their differences, Julia and Patrick work well together and make a great team. Based on the
While there might be aspects of a lower score, this response is holistically a 6. This response fully accomplishes the task because it stays focused on a unifying theme while presenting many relevant ideas that fully develop the topic (Julia and Patrick are very different, but their love of learning new things and finding quarters brings them together.). It has clear order with a strong beginning, middle and end progressing in an order that enhances the writing (I hope that I can share a similar experience with one of my friends someday.). Internal transitions and idea transitions naturally push the reader along, exhibiting fluency and smoothness (As stated in my last paragraph; In conclusion). It exhibits very good word usage including challenging and descriptive vocabulary (examining their physical features; typically performed to contribute; Despite their differences).

While there are some errors, they do not impair the flow of communication and are of a first draft variety.
Julia and Patrick have a few things in common. They both like to sort quarters into their separate states. They only put the quarters in their own slots when they get two of them. Julia and Patrick’s favorite quarter is Connecticut. They don’t like it for the same reason, though. Julia likes it because she thinks the Charter Oak tree on the front of the quarter is pretty. She wonders how hard it would be to carve all those tiny branches. Patrick likes it because the tree is a kind of say strong to go with its It’s about a king who wanted to take all the charter. His men have a meeting and all the candles go out, but when they lit the candles again, all the charter was gone. Some guy had taken it and hid it in a hollow tree. Julia and Patrick also have a lot of differences. Julia likes hands-on activities, like finding the quarters, Patrick likes researching the history of the picture on the quarters. Julia likes to check the state of the quarter as soon as she gets them, but Patrick almost always forgets. I think it’s easy for them to work together because they have different strengths and interests. I also think it’s important for them to work in their strengths. It makes their hobby more interesting.
and efficient. It doesn’t take very long for two people to finish a project when they split it into parts that they enjoy doing, but if you make them do two parts of the project that they don’t enjoy doing, it’ll take a long time to get finished. I think it’s easy for Julia and Patrick to work together.

**Writing - 5 pts** While there might be aspects of a higher or lower score, this response is holistically a 5. It fully accomplishes the task because this response stays focused on a unifying theme while presenting many relevant ideas that fully develop the topic (I think it is easy for them to work together because they have different strengths and interests.). It has clear order with a beginning, middle and end that progresses in an order that enhances the writing. First the similarities, then the differences, and finally the strength of their partnership are discussed. It exhibits very good word usage including challenging and descriptive vocabulary (more interesting and efficient).

**Language Conventions - 4 pts** While there are some errors, they do not impair the flow of communication and are of a first draft variety.
Julia and Patrick, these characters (personality) are easy and hard to work with. They have a lot in common and some differences. They each play a part in their quarter project. They have find every state quarter in the USA. That makes it hard because everyone has there weakness.

It's easy to work together because, they both have a favorite quarter that's the same. And that is the Connecticut Quarter. Another reason is because they have a routine, where Julia is in charge of finding the quarters. Then Patrick is in charge of the research. They picked these jobs because it suited them well.

It's hard to work together because, they don't have the same personalities. They have different likes and dislikes. There also different because they don't equal jobs to me. It seems that Julia does more of the project then Patrick.
but maybe Patrick didn't want to be the "leader".

There personalitys (characters) are the same because they work hard on the project (effort). They are both willing to change plans when necessary (flexibility). And they would have to do there very best (personal best). They are also getting creative with the jobs here they split up (creativity).

There personalitys are different because every human is made different. They have different specialties, like maybe Patrick is good with computers and Julia is not. Maybe that's why Patrick is doing the research. Julia may be better at looking for things and that's why she is in charge of the quarters.

I think there is more similarity because the teacher picked them for a reason. I think they work great together. They will get the project done in time if they work hard at it and keep doing what there
I think there is more similarity because the teacher picked them for a reason. I think the work great together. They will get the project done in time if they work hard at it and keep doing what they are doing they can get it done.

Writing - 5 pts: While there might be aspects of a higher or lower score, this response is holistically a 5. This response fully accomplishes the task because it stays focused on a unifying theme while presenting many relevant ideas that fully develop the topic (They each play a part in their quarter project.). It has clear order with a beginning, middle and end that progresses in an order that enhances the writing (They have a lot in common and some differences; and keep doing what they are doing they can get it done). It exhibits very good word usage including challenging and descriptive vocabulary (willing to change plans when necessary; flexibility; personal best; creativity).

Language Conventions - 4 pts: While there are some errors, they do not impair the flow of communication and are of a first draft variety.
Julia and Patrick are quarter collectors. That means they like collecting quarters. But Julia and Patrick don’t like it; they love it. They make a great team when it comes to collecting quarters.

When Julia and Patrick collect quarters, they analyze it to see what state it’s from. Then Patrick does research on it and Julia builds, places, and glue whatever they need for the quarter, but they could do it either way.

Patrick and Julia’s favorite quarter is the Connecticut quarter. Julia likes the quarter because of the tree on the quarter. I also like the tree on the quarter too! Patrick likes the quarter because of the history printed off the quarter.

Now let’s talk about the problem with this quarter. Both Julia and Patrick love this quarter, but they can’t find them. Is there that quarter in rare, or it might just exist. They have tried it to find it.
My opinion is that they should keep working together there doing great. They almost collected all the states quarters, but the only one they need is the Connecticut quarter. This is what I'll say to them if they were here. "Keep up the work and don't give up. Your almost there. Keep looking for that quarter. You have to admit they're doing good. If you don't, you try to collect all the quarters in the state."

**Writing - 4 pts** While there might be aspects of higher or lower score points, this response is holistically a 4. This response accomplishes the task because it stays mostly focused on topic with sufficient information along with relevant ideas that are mostly developed (They make a great team when it comes to collecting quarters.). It has order with a beginning, middle and end that generally progresses in a manner that enhances the meaning. The writing exhibits adequate word usage with mostly common/ordinary vocabulary, however, it does have some challenging words (analyze, exist). This response displays some sense of audience (Now lets talk about the problem with this quarter. You have to admit they’re doing good.).

**Language Conventions - 4 pts** While there are some errors, they do not impair the flow of communication and are of a first draft variety.
Julia and Patrick are friends. They love to find quarters from different states. That would be very hard. Once they have found two of the same quarter, then they put them in envelopes. Patrick is the one that keeps the envelopes.

It would most likely be easy to work together. With Patrick looking up the history, Julia working with the hands on things. They make a very good team.

Julia and Patrick are the same and different in some ways. They are different because Patrick likes to keep things in his pockets such as a quarter, two pennies, a paper clip, a ball of lint, and a rather furry-looking cough drop. Patrick also likes to look up the history of the picture on the back of the quarter. On the other hand, Julia doesn't keep junk in her pockets like Patrick does. Also she...
likes to do hands on things.

Julia and Patrick are the same, because they both like to find quarters. They also don't like it when they don't get the quarter they want. Like in the last three paragraphs. "New york!" I said. "Dang it." We already had our New Yorks.

Julia and Patrick are similar and different in many ways. They would be easy to work with.

**Writing - 4 pts** While there might be aspects of higher and lower score points, this response is holistically a 4. This response accomplishes the task because it stays mostly focused on topic with sufficient information along with relevant ideas that are mostly developed (Julia and Patrick are the same because they both like to find quarters). It has a logical order with a beginning, middle and end that enhances the meaning of the text. The writing exhibits adequate word usage with mostly ordinary/common vocabulary (easy to work together; very good team). Overall, the response accomplishes the task and receives a 4.

**Language Conventions - 4 pts** Though there are a few minor errors in this response, these errors do not impair the flow of communication. The writing exhibits a good command of language skills with punctuation and spelling generally correct. This response is a 4.
Julia and Patrick collected quarters. They each have a different station. Julia has the station where she does the hand-on activities, and Patrick does the research on the carvings on the quarters. They collect quarters because they both have the same interest, collecting quarters to find out their history.

They find a lot of quarters, but they found one that they really liked, and it wasn't New York, and no it wasn't Oregon, it was Connecticut. They both really liked it because it had the Charter Oak tree on it. But what really bothered them was that they couldn't find a second Connecticut. They had both New York's and both Oregon's and both of a lot of other states, but they couldn't find the second Connecticut.

Their task was hard at sometimes, but it was also kind of easy at sometimes too. They had to find a quarter sit it on a table and Patrick would look the quarter's carving up on the internet so I would say it's easy.

**Writing - 3 pts** While some aspects of the score might be higher or lower, this response is holistically a 3. This response minimally accomplishes the task because it stays minimally focused on the topic while including relevant ideas that are somewhat developed (They both really liked it because it had the Charter Oak tree on it.). It has some order with a beginning, middle and end but the introduction and conclusion are minimal (Julia and Patrick collect quarters; They had to find a quarter sit it on a table and Patrick would look the quarter's carving up on the internet so I would say it's easy.). Word use is simple and there is little attempt to write for an audience.

**Language Conventions - 3 pts** While it contains occasional errors, it does not obscure the meaning of the response.
Juia and Patrick are different because it's hard to work together and they have a hard time finding the Connecticut coin and plus it's even harder because they need to find two. They found one but they need to find another one. They have a hard time finding it together so they gave jobs to themselves. Juia was the one in charge of finding the quarters and Patrick was in charge of keeping track of the special folders that had a slot for each one. The jobs were for them because they couldn't work together. The plan was to find the second Connecticut coin to put in their collection. In the future they will find their second Connecticut coin.

**Writing - 3 pts**
While some aspects of the score might be higher or lower, this response is holistically a 3. This response minimally accomplishes the task because it stays minimally focused on the topic while including relevant ideas that are somewhat developed (The plan was to find the second Connecticut coin to put in their collection.). It has some order with a beginning, middle and end but the introduction and conclusion are minimal (Juia and Patrick are different because it's hard to work together and they have a hard time...; In the future they will find their second Connecticut coin.). Word use is simple and there is little attempt to write for an audience.

**Language Conventions - 3 pts**
This response demonstrates adequate command of language skills. There are some sentence construction problems, along with punctuation errors. However, errors in most skills are occasional, and do not interfere with meaning. This makes the response a 3.
This is a story about two kids named Julia and Patrick. Julia was a kid that collected quarters and got creative. Patrick was the kid that researched and read about them. Julia and Patrick studied and collected the quarters that they had. It wasn’t hard to work in their team. They were 2 quarters that they didn’t get. They didn’t get Connecticut. The Connecticut tree had a story about hidden treasures in the tree.

**Writing - 2 pts**
While some aspects of the score might be higher or lower, this response is holistically a 2. It partially accomplishes the task because development is very brief and suffers from information gaps. This response presents a discernible beginning and middle, but lacks any sort of conclusion (This is a story about two kids named, Julia and Patrick.). The writing displays minimal word usage and contains limited vocabulary with little or no attempt at a sense of audience (They were 2 quarters that they didn’t get.).

**Language Conventions - 3 pts**
This response contains occasional errors, but they are few and minor and do not seriously obscure the writer’s meaning.
I think that Patrick and Julia do get along. Because they like the same quarter Connecticut. They look like good friends to each one.

It very different for them to find quarter. They need 50 quarters for these project. This look like a very different and make a little fun.

They did a very good job find the quarters. Made do they like find the quarters. They made do they had a lot of fun do it.

**Writing - 2 pts** While some aspects of the score might be higher or lower, this response is holistically a 2. This response partially accomplishes the task because it exhibits difficulty in maintaining focus with few relevant ideas (They need 50 quarters for there project.). The response is too brief to establish sufficient development of the topic. There is minimal order with beginning, middle and end (I think that Julia and Patrick do get along; They madedehad a lot of fun do it.). The writing displays minimal word usage and contains limited vocabulary with little or no attempt at a sense of audience.

**Language Conventions - 2 pts** This response contains frequent errors and requires the reader to have to stop and reread portions of the writing.
They both like quarters. That will help them. They both like the history about them. That will help them.

They like serton jobs. That won’t help.

Patrick does the hard work. That won’t help.

Writing - 1 pt: While some aspects of the score might be higher or lower, this response is holistically a 1. This response fails to accomplish the task. It’s too brief to establish or maintain focus and is repetitive (That will help them; That will help them; that won’t help.). This response has less than minimal order with no clear attempt at an introduction or conclusion. The writing contains less than minimal word usage with limited vocabulary (They like serton jobs. that won’t help.).

Language Conventions - 1 pt: While this response is easier to read, it is too brief to contain the variety of errors to receive anything higher than a score point 1.