ISTEP+
Grade 5 Writing

Project Mulberry

Practice Set 2
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.**
Patrick and I were... well pretty good partners. I don't mean perfect and I don't mean awful either. Patrick was the research guy, you know, the person who studies the history of the quarters we find. I was the one who found the quarters. I dig the dirt and mud in sand, sometimes even in mall fountains! Then Patrick would tell me what state the quarter was from and explain to me it's backstory.

Both of us love the project, we've been working on it for two months, but that is where the similarities end. Patrick is squimish when I say this I mean he doesn't like looking through dirt piles, mud piles, sand or much of anything because he is afraid of all bugs especially worms. I, on the other hand, adore bugs! Half the time if I didn't find a quarter I was happy I found a beetle.

And today was no different... Patrick searched about the New York quarter I had found. "Ugh," he said "we already have this quarter!"
“Just because we already have it doesn’t mean we can’t keep it,” I said. The New York quarter was another one of my favorites.

“Why do we have no use for it?” Patrick yelled. He threw the quarter out the window. I heard the ‘chug’ as it fell on the sidewalk. Why was he acting like this?

“Look, Patrick, I don’t know what your problem is but stop.” I said. He snapped his pencil. “I’m sorry, but I’m... stressed.”

“Why?”

“We haven’t found the Connecticut quarter it’s been a month,” he exaggerated the word “month.” “I’m beginning to think maybe there is no second one.”

I pulled on my tennis shoes. “There is another Connecticut quarter and we’re going to find it!” Then I walked out the front door.

My backyard was full of small holes. I dug to find quarters. I grabbed the shovel and started digging. I threw dirt behind me. It hurt my arms and legs to plunge the shovel in the ground.
over and over. Then I saw a small shining thing. It was buried quickly. I dug it out in my hands was a shiny quarter from Illinois.

I wiped the dirt off of it. We didn't have either Illinois quarters. I stuffed it in my pocket and went back to digging.

Soot it started to rain. I rushed inside to show Patrick. I saw excitement fill his eyes and he began to learn about the quarter. "Not much of an interesting back story, but a cool find."

The rain lasted all day and some into the night. I fell asleep on the couch. Patrick woke me. "Gah!" I screamed. It was midnight. I rubbed my tired eyes. "Yes?" I asked.

"I found it!" he squealed.

"Found what?"

"The Connecticut Quarter! I went outside with a flashlight. It fell on my head out of a bird's nest!" He explains.

"Did you bring it inside?"

He pulled out the quarter and handed it to me. "I just knew we could find it!"
So, yeah. Me and Patrick may have our differences from time to time but in reality we are really good partners. Partners who don’t give up on themselves or each other. Partners who are smart and brave. Partners who work together like peanut butter and jelly.

**Writing - 6 pts**
While there might be aspects of a lower score, holistically this is a 6 point response. It fully accomplishes the task with a distinctive quality. This response stays fully focused and presents a unifying theme including thorough and relevant ideas from the writer’s point of view that fully develop the topic. It has clear order with a strong beginning, middle and end while progressing in an order that includes great dialogue which enhances the writing (We have no use for it; I’m sorry, but I’m... stressed.). It also exhibits exceptional word usage along with challenging and descriptive vocabulary (squimish, exaggerated, squealed). This response has a unique perspective with a strong introduction and conclusion that displays a sense of audience (Patrick and I were...well pretty good partners; Partners who work together like peanut butter and jelly).

**Language Conventions - 4 pts**
While there are some errors, they are of a first draft variety and do not impair the flow of communication.
Have you ever thought about if Julia and Patrick are good partners and work well together? If you haven't, you have come to the right place!

These are the pros and cons of Julia and Patrick's teamwork. A pro is, Julia is a great supporter keeping them on task and focused, while Patrick knows a lot of history of each coin and is good at collecting them. A con is that a lot of the time Julia likes to boss people around making it hard for them to get along sometimes. Julia and Patrick can be a great team, but they do have their downs.

Everyone has some differences, and here is how Patrick and Julia are alike and different. Let's start with similarities. Because they both always work together, that shows that they are determined and want to get their work finished. Another similarity is that since they both have some humor, they are keeping their work fun and having an up-beat spirit!

Here are some differences. Julia is bossy and sometimes aggravating, but Patrick is respectful and kind to his surroundings. Like I said, they're a great team, but I'm surprised they get along pretty well.

They each have their ups, downs, bad, and good, but they seem to enjoy working together and are good at doing it! I think it would be a great idea for Julia and Patrick to work together on their future projects!
They both have their own qualities. Patrick knows the history, and Julia knows how to weave. Since that each of them can cover different parts of the project, I think it’s good that not only one of them is doing all of the work.

It’s also good that they both have very different personalities so that as you grow up, you can get used to working with different types of people out in the world.

So now you know the pros and cons, similarities and differences, and their personalities of Patrick and Julia as a team.

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 (There are pros and cons of Julia and Patrick’s teamwork.). It has clear order with a beginning, middle and end progressing in a manner that enhances the writing. While there is a logical sequence presented, the cohesion overall is somewhat lacking as the response reintegrates an overall main idea in the middle of the second page (They each have their up, downs, bad and good, but they seem to enjoy working together and are good at doing it!). It exhibits very good word usage including challenging and descriptive vocabulary (up-beat spirit; aggravating; respectful; surroundings). The writing displays a strong sense of audience (If you haven’t, you have come to the right place! Now you know the pros and cons, similarities and differences, and their personalities of Patrick and Julia as a team).

Language Conventions - 4 pts While there are some errors, they do not impair the flow of communication and are of a first draft variety.
"Hey, Patrick! I found a quarter!" Julia said. "That's New York not Connecticut, we already have New York," Patrick replied. In the story, "Project Mulberry," Julia and Patrick are gazing to find quarters. I'm going to tell you the similarities and differences of Julia and Patrick.

First up, comparing! Their jobs. I can tell you that their jobs are like finding a piece of glass in the entire enormous Atlantic Ocean. Julia's job is to search for quarters, she's a hawk. And Patrick's job is to study the history from each individual quarter. They are alike because they both are jobs that involve quarters. The quarters are next. The quarters are the particular reason why Julia and Patrick are in the chaos! When Julia and Patrick find two quarters of each state, they put them in their folder. Not just any folder, but a special engaging one. Then there's the Connecticut Quarter. In the text it says, "Connecticut was my favorite quarter. It was Patrick's favorite too!". This shows me that Julia and Patrick both cherish one quarter, the Connecticut quarter.
Next up is the Comparing and Contrasting. The jobs were quite different. Patrick's job is to search the quarters' history and Julia's job is to find them. These jobs are different from each other. Julia always has to remind Patrick to check the back of the quarters to see each state. This shows me that Julia has a better memory than Patrick. Then, the Connecticut quarter. In paragraph 11 it says, "I liked it because the tree was so pretty." In paragraph 12 it states, "Patrick liked Connecticut because of the story about the tree." The quotes from the text show me that Julia and Patrick both have opinions about what they like about the tree.

When you put the Comparing and Contrasting together, they are like BOOM! They are really different. The jobs both have their good cases and bad cases. Even sometimes Julia and Patrick switch jobs. In the story it says, "Sometimes I'd do some of the reading, and Patrick would help with the making part." See how they work together.
I wish I could be able to pull that off!

So now you see how Julia are alike and different. Even though Julia and Patrick are like the sun and rain, I've learned that together the make an extraordinary beautiful rainbow! Oooh! Ahhh! Oh!

**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 (Julia and Patrick are gazing to find quarters.). It has clear order with a beginning, middle and end that progresses in an order that enhance the writing. It exhibits very good word usage including challenging and descriptive vocabulary (like finding a piece of glass in the entire enormous Atlantic Ocean; chaos, cherish, extraordinary beautiful rainbow). The writing displays a sense of audience (When you put the comparing and contrasting together they are like BOOM!).

**Language Conventions - 4 pts** While there are some errors, they do not impair the flow of communication and are of a first draft variety.
Patrick and the narrator, Julia, are similar and different in many ways. I think that they get along great and it's easy for them to work together.

Patrick and Julia show that they work awesome together by the way they have their jobs. They have it organized and they change sometimes but they never get too mad. Julia has the collecting and crafting job while Patrick has his researching the coin's picture job. Those things make them well organized and a great team.

The two are different because they have the same interest but like different things about it. Julia likes the adventures and stuff like that when she looks for coins. Patrick likes looking up the pictures on the coins. Those are some things for how they are different but I'm not going to tell you them all!
Julia and Patrick are also alike in many ways, there are a lot so I'm going to tell you a few. The kids are both interested in quarters. They both are interested in Connecticut's coin too. They want to find one more Connecticut coin so that they can put two in the folder.

The two kids are alike and different, but they still make a fantastic team! Patrick and Julia like and dislike things but I can't know for sure they adore quarters! They are definitely extreme quarter collectors!

**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 (I think that they get along great and it's easy for them to work together.). It has order with a beginning, middle and end that generally progresses in an order that enhances the meaning. The writing exhibits adequate word usage with mostly ordinary/common vocabulary, however, it does contain some challenging words and vivid descriptions (awesome together; adventures; fantastic team; adore; definitely extreme quarter collectors). This response displays some sense of audience (I'm not going to tell you them all; I'm going to tell you a few.)

**Language Conventions - 4 pts** While there are some errors, they do not impair the flow of communication and are of a first draft variety.
Excerpt from Project Mulberry

Julia and her good friend are working on a state quarters project! I think Julia and her friend Patrick work together well. The reason I say this is because Patrick does the reading, so he looks up the information about the quarters. Julia is the person who does the hands-on stuff, so she is the one to cut, glue, and build. Julia and Patrick sometimes like to switch it up, so Patrick does hand-on stuff and Julia does research!

I think Julia and Patrick have some similarities. They both like the state quarters project. They both like their jobs they do to finish the project. They both like the Connecticut quarter because of the interesting colonial story! Another thing they both like are the stories about the quarters! This means they both have some similarities.

I think Julia and Patrick have some differences. Julia is better at looking for what kind of design is on the quarter. Patrick likes the researching better than hands-on stuff. This means that Julia and Patrick have some differences.

When Julia and Patrick finished the state of quarters project, they had to present their project in front of the class. They got an A+ on their work!
Julia and Patrick had so much fun, they started to collect them for fun. The new coin they are starting with, this time is a dime! She and Patrick are learning a lot about dimes now.

Julia and Patrick said “that was the best project ever!” Now all the 4th graders are saying “we can’t wait until they get to 5th grade!” Who knew that learning about coins could be so much fun?

Julia and Patrick said “we are going to learn about a nickel and pennie after the dime!”

While there might be aspects of higher and lower scores points, this response is holistically a 4. This response accomplishes the task by staying mostly focused on topic with sufficient information along with relevant ideas that are mostly developed (Julia and Patrick sometimes like to switch it up, so Patrick does hand on stuff and Julia does research!). 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 (work together well; so much fun). This response displays a sense of audience with a unique perspective in which Julia and Patrick present their finished project to the class. It also contains dialogue which enhances the writing (that was the best project ever; we are going to learn about a nickel and pennie after the dime!)

While there are some errors, they are of a first draft variety and do not impair the flow of communication.
It is easy for them to work together because they have most of the state quarters. But they are having trouble finding a Connecticut state quarter. When Julia made Patrick check his pockets, Patrick pulled out a quarter. But it wasn't a Connecticut quarter, it was a New York quarter. Patrick usually does research on the state quarters.

And Julia usually collects the state quarters. The reason Patrick does the research is because he isn't into collecting them. Patrick is only interested in research on the state quarters. Soon they will finally find a Connecticut state quarter. Then they would have both of the Connecticut state quarters that they needed.

**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 somewhat focused on topic and task. Development contains some relevant information but is severely lacking in specifics (Patrick usually does research on the state quarters. And Julia usually collects the state quarters.). This response contains a discernible introduction, short body, and minimal conclusion (Then they would have both of the Connecticut state quarters that they needed.). The writing is ordinary and predictable with little sense of audience.

**Language Conventions - 4 pts** This response contains no errors that impede the flow of communication.
It is very difficult for them to work together because they both like the same thing about their job but they both have different interests. They don't get along well because one has to tell the other to do something. It's hard going from place to place and trying to get one certain quarter. It's hard to work together because one does one thing and the other does a different thing.

Patrick and Julia both have the same job but do different things and they are different cause one looks right away and the other almost forgets to look. Julia doesn’t care about the history and Patrick does because he does the research. Julia and Patrick both liked the connecticut quarter because the way the tree looks and the history of the tree.

This is why it is hard for them to work together. This tells that their job is hard and it is hard to work together. They go place to place trying to find the connecticut quarter but never found it so their folder stayed empty.

**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 somewhat focused on topic with relevant ideas (It’s hard to work together because one does one thing and the other does a different thing.). Development includes some relevant information (Julia doesn’t care about the history and Patrick does because he does the research.). This response contains a discernible introduction, short body and conclusion. The writing is generally fluent but is somewhat ordinary and predictable (Julia and Patrick both liked the connecticut quarter because the way the tree looks and the history of the tree.)

**Language Conventions - 4 pts** This response contains a few errors, but they do not impair the flow of communication. For the most part, errors occur when the student is attempting more advanced conventions.
Patrick and Julia (the narrator) work well together as a team. Julia is serious about finding the quarters. Patrick is too, he just has more fun doing the job. However, they both get serious when they need to. Since both of them like collecting quarters, and they both are doing it for a project, the work perfectly. Their differences and similarities make a perfect team. Julia needs two Connecticut quarters to complete the project. Patrick also needs them to complete the project, but he has more motivation. His motivation is the spy story. This makes him try harder to get the quarters. They make an excellent team.

**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 get serious when they need to; he has more motivation.). It has some order with a beginning, middle and end but the introduction and conclusion are minimal and repetitive (work well together as a team; They make an excellent team.). Word use is simple and there is little attempt to write for an audience.

**Language Conventions - 3 pts** While this response contains occasional errors, they do not obscure the writer’s meaning.
They are not different at all. They both like quarters. One they both like the history behind the pictures on the quarters. So that's why they are not different. But I'm not finished they can sometime disagree and they can fight. That's what I think.

**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 the response exhibits difficulty in maintaining focus with few relevant ideas. There is no clear order with little attempt at a beginning, middle or end (They are not different at all; that's what I think.). The writing displays minimal word usage and contains limited vocabulary with little or no attempt at a sense of audience (But I'm not finished they can sometimes disagree and they can fight.)

**Language Conventions - 2 pts**
This response contains frequent errors and requires the reader to have to stop and reread portions of the writing.
Julia is different from Patrick because she likes to make stuff and Patrick likes to measure stuff. Julia also likes pretty things but Patrick likes cool stories.

**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 because it’s too brief to establish or maintain focus. It has less than minimal order with no clear attempt at an introduction or conclusion (Julia also likes pretty things but Patrick likes cool stories.). The writing contains less than minimal word usage with limited vocabulary (she likes to make stuff; likes to research stuff.)

**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.