

# PAIRED TEXTS

## Economics

with multiple choice and  
constructed response  
questions



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Dear Teacher,

These passages meet the demand for more rigorous, complex texts with Common Core- especially paired texts that students can use to compare and build knowledge to integrate information and draw conclusions. The passages in this set are in the "stretch" range for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and in the grade level band for 5<sup>th</sup> grade. There are two styles of passages provided to help suit various needs.

In my 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom, I use each of the texts for close reading and annotating lessons- this helps ensure the students fully comprehend the texts before having to answer questions about both texts together. My students use their annotated texts to answer the questions. Since the texts are in the "stretch" range for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, I don't give these texts as cold reads, but if you have students reading on a 5<sup>th</sup> grade level, you definitely could! If your students have not been exposed to paired text questions, you may want to walk them through some examples before you ever take a grade. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me- [ideasbyjivey@gmail.com](mailto:ideasbyjivey@gmail.com).

Thank you for your purchase!

~jivey

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# Our Economy

Have you ever wanted a special dessert or a new outfit, but your parents told you "no" because it wasn't something you needed? While clothing and food are considered needs because we must have them to survive, there is a difference between basic needs and luxuries. People *need* food that provides vitamins and minerals for energy. Dessert is not a healthy food. People also need clothes for protection from sun, wind, rain, and cold. Although it would be nice to have a closet full of clothes, it is not necessary. Those would be considered wants, just like a new video game or a pet would be. All of these physical items that we can buy when we want or need them are called goods.

Something else a person might pay for to fulfill wants and needs are services. Services are activities that someone performs for money, such as washing cars, babysitting, fighting fires, and teaching. A doctor performs a service that people need: helping to keep people healthy. A waitress performs a service that people want: delivering food and drinks to the table.



The people who create or produce goods and services are called producers. Sometimes producers create goods from raw materials<sup>1</sup>. This is called manufacturing. Producers can even create items from manufactured goods. For example, computers are built from manufactured electronics and plastics. When a company uses manufactured items to create a new product, this is called production. Most companies today use factories to produce their goods because items can be built faster. Occasionally, producers provide services and goods. A farmer plants and harvests (services), and sells food he grew (goods).

The people who pay for these goods and services are called consumers. And guess what? Those consumers are usually producers, too! After all, how did they get money to buy their goods and services? Our economy forms a cycle of production and consumption. People produce to earn money to buy other goods and services!

<sup>1</sup>raw materials: natural items from plants, animals, or the Earth

# Red Bicycle



Jennifer fell in love with the red bicycle the minute she saw it. She could imagine herself putting flowers in the basket that was attached to the front. She looked at her dad with pleading eyes. "Dad, please! It's so perfect and it's everything I have ever wanted!"

Her dad smiled. "Everything you've ever wanted huh?" He put his hand on his chin and thought for a moment. "I'll tell you what. If you can save the money to pay for half of this red bicycle, I'll pay for the other half."

Jennifer did some quick math in her head. "But Dad!! That's almost \$100!"

"Well, it sounds like you need to find a way to earn some money!" Jennifer's dad winked at her.

As soon as she got home, Jennifer started to make a plan. She began by thinking of all the things she could do to earn money in her neighborhood. She made a list: walk dogs, wash cars, and babysit. She made flyers on her computer to advertise each of the things she could do. After Jennifer printed several of her flyers, she delivered them to her neighbors.

Within hours, she had neighbors calling to ask her to come wash their cars and walk their dogs. She even lined up a babysitting job for Friday night! After only one week of work, she earned \$75! But she wasn't quite to the amount she needed for her new bicycle.

As Jennifer sat brainstorming, the phone rang. It was the mother of the little girl she had babysat last Friday! She said she'd done such a great job, she hoped she could come back again next Friday. Jennifer was so excited when she hung up the phone, she jumped up and down! This was the last bit of money that she needed! She could almost feel the wind blowing through her hair as she imagined herself on that red bicycle. She couldn't wait to tell her dad! He was going to be so proud!



Use both texts to answer the following questions.

1. Which sentence **best** summarizes **Red Bicycle**?

- a. Jennifer was a great babysitter.
- b. Jennifer wanted a new bicycle, so she earned extra money to buy it.
- c. Jennifer asked her mom to buy a new bicycle.
- d. Jennifer loved the red bicycle with the basket on the front.

2. Why do most companies today produce goods in factories?

- a. It creates more jobs for people to work in factories.
- b. People don't know how to make goods by hand anymore.
- c. There aren't enough raw materials to produce goods without factories.
- d. Factories help companies produce more goods faster.

3. In paragraph 3 of **Our Economy**, what does the word **manufactured** mean?

- a. grew
- b. consumer
- c. created
- d. wanted

4. Based on the definition of needs in **Our Economy**, which of the following would be a need?

- a. pet
- b. vegetables
- c. bicycle
- d. ice cream

5. Which of the following would represent a producer providing a service to fulfill people's wants?

- a. chef
- b. doctor
- c. police officer
- d. firefighter

6. How would you describe Jennifer's character in **Red Bicycle**?

- a. spoiled
- b. determined
- c. bored
- d. foolish

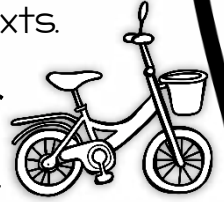
7. What can the reader conclude after reading **Our Economy**?

- a. All producers that perform services also provide goods.
- b. Most goods sold fulfill people's needs.
- c. Most consumers are also producers that provide goods or services.
- d. All services performed are only for people's wants.

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

Support your answer to the question with evidence from both texts.

Explain how Jennifer was a producer and a consumer.



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# Our Economy

Have you ever wanted a special dessert or a new outfit, but your parents told you "no" because it wasn't something you needed? While clothing and food are considered needs because we must have them to survive, there is a difference between basic needs and luxuries. People *need* food that provides vitamins and minerals for energy. Dessert is not a healthy food. People also need clothes for protection from sun, wind, rain, and cold. Although it would be nice to have a closet full of clothes, it is not necessary. Those would be considered *wants*, as they are new desires that are not necessary for life. All of these physical items that we can buy when we want or need them are called goods.

Something else a person might pay for to fulfill wants and needs are services. Services are activities that someone performs for money, such as washing cars, babysitting, fighting fires, and teaching. A doctor performs a service that people need: helping to keep people healthy. A waitress performs a service that people want: delivering food and drinks to the table.



The people who create or sell goods and services are called producers. Sometimes producers take goods from raw materials<sup>1</sup>. This is called manufacturing. Producers can even create items from manufactured goods. For example, computers are built from manufactured electronics and plastics. When a company uses manufactured items to create a new product, this is called production. Most companies today use factories to produce their goods because items can be built faster. Occasionally, producers provide services and goods. A farmer plants and harvests (services), and sells food he grows (goods).

The people who pay for these goods and services are called consumers. And guess what? Those consumers can usually produce, too! After all, how did they get money to buy their goods and services? Our economy forms a cycle of production and consumption. People produce to earn money to buy other goods and services!

<sup>1</sup>raw materials: natural items from plants, animals, or the Earth

# Red Bicycle



Jennifer fell in love with the red bicycle the minute she saw it. She could imagine herself putting flowers in the basket that was attached to the front. She looked at her dad with pleading eyes,

"Dad, please! It's so perfect, and it's everything I have ever wanted!"

Her dad smiled. "Everything you've ever wanted, huh?" He put his hand on his chin, as though he was thinking hard. "I'll tell you that. If you can save the money to pay for half of this red bicycle, I'll pay for the other half."

Jennifer did some quick math in her head. "But Dad!! That's almost \$100!"

"Well, it sounds like you need to find a way to earn some money!" Jennifer's dad winked at her.

As soon as she got home, Jennifer started to make a plan. She began by thinking of all the things she could do to earn money in her neighborhood. She made a list: walk dogs, wash cars, and babysit. She ran the numbers in her computer to ascertain all of the things she could do. After Jennifer printed out all her ideas, she delivered them to her neighbors.

Within hours, she had neighbors calling to ask her to come wash their cars and walk their dogs. She even lined up a babysitting job for Friday night! After only one week of work, she earned \$75! But she wasn't quite to the amount she needed for her new bicycle.

As Jennifer sat brainstorming, the phone rang. It was the mother of the little girl she had babysat last Friday! She said she'd done such a great job, she hoped she could come back again next Friday. Jennifer was so excited when she hung up the phone, she jumped up and down! This was the last bit of money that she needed! She could almost feel the wind blowing through her hair as she imagined herself on that red bicycle. She couldn't wait to tell her dad! He was going to be so proud!



Use both texts to answer the following questions.

1. Which sentence **best** summarizes **Red Bicycle**?

- a. Jennifer was a great babysitter.
- b. Jennifer wanted a new bicycle, so she earned extra money to buy it.
- c. Jennifer asked her dad to buy her a new bicycle.
- d. Jennifer lost her old bicycle with the basket on the front.

2. Why do most companies today produce goods in factories?

- a. It creates more jobs for people to work in factories.
- b. People don't know how to make goods by hand anymore.
- c. There aren't enough raw materials to produce goods without factories.
- d. Factories help companies produce more goods faster.

3. In paragraph 3 of **Our Economy**, what does the word manufactured mean?

- a. grew
- b. consumed
- c. created
- d. wanted

4. Based on the definition of needs in **Our Economy**, which of the following would be a need?

- a. pet
- b. table
- c. bicycle
- d. ice cream

5. Which of the following would represent a producer providing a service to fulfill people's wants?

- a. chef
- b. doctor
- c. police officer
- d. firefighter

6. How would you describe Jennifer's character in **Red Bicycle**?

- a. spoiled
- b. determined
- c. bored
- d. foolish

7. What can the reader conclude after reading **Our Economy**?

- a. All producers that perform services also provide goods.
- b. Most goods fulfill people's needs.
- c. Most consumers are also producers that provide goods or services.
- d. All services performed are only for people's wants.

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Support your answer to the question with evidence from both texts.

**Explain how Jennifer was a producer and a consumer.**



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Use both texts to answer the following questions.

1. Which sentence **best** summarizes **Red Bicycle**?

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- c. Jennifer asked her mom to buy a new bicycle.
- d. Jennifer loved the red bicycle with the basket on the front.

**R.2**

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**R.I**

3. In paragraph 3 of **Our Economy**, what does the word **manufactured** mean?

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**R.4**

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- c. bicycle
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**R.I**

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**R.I**

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**R.3**

7. What can the reader conclude after reading **Our Economy**?

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- b. Most goods fulfill people's needs.
- c. Most consumers are also producers that provide goods or services.**
- d. All services performed are only for people's wants.

**R.I**

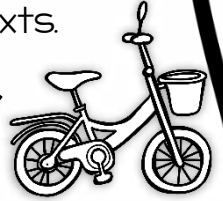
Name: answer key

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

Support your answer to the question with evidence from both texts.

Explain how Jennifer was a producer and a consumer.

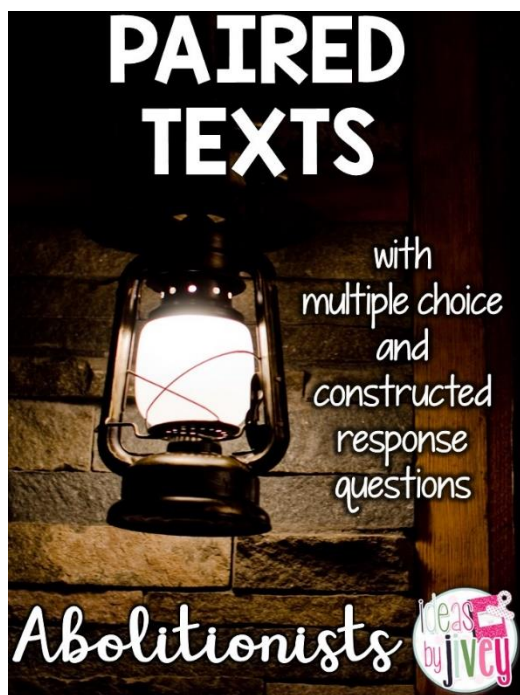
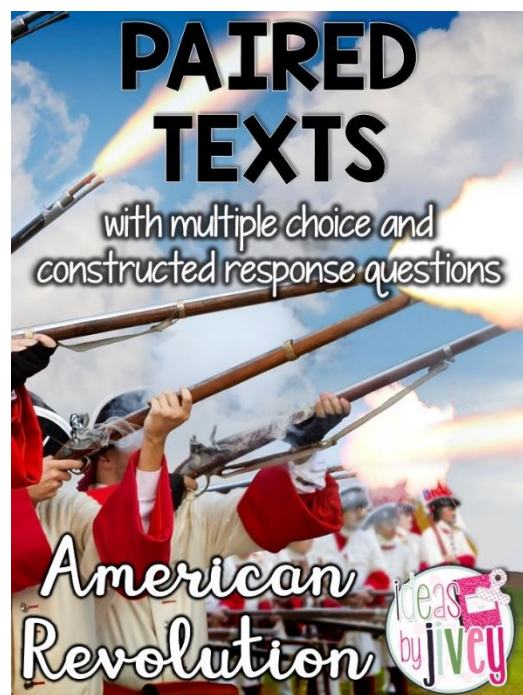
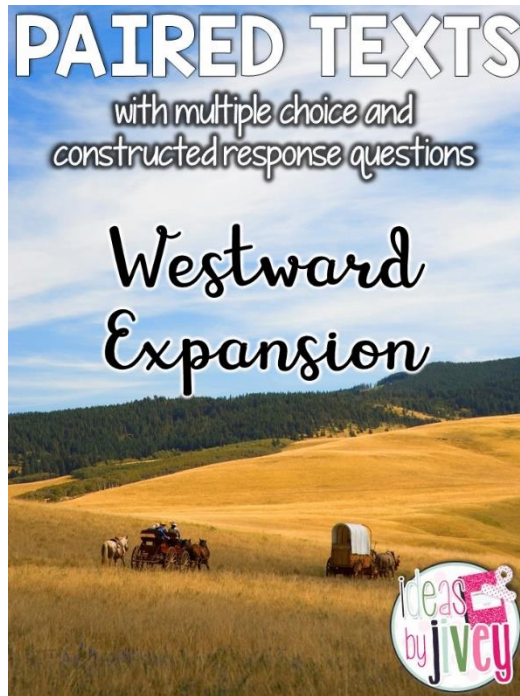
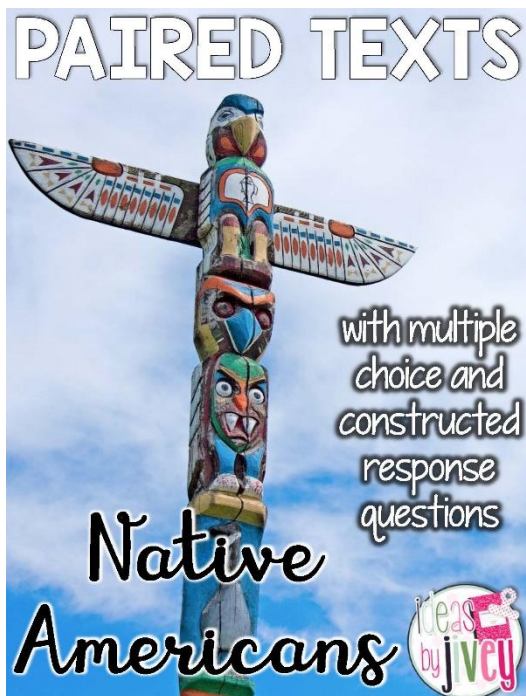
R.9



The response may include, but is not limited to:

Jennifer was a producer because she provides services like washing cars, walking dogs, and babysitting to earn money to buy the bicycle she wanted. She was a consumer because she would buy the red bicycle when she had saved enough money.

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