

**Extended response passage** from *Wolves* by Seymour Simon (Making Meaning readaloud, grade 7).

Wolves, like humans, are very adaptable to different climates and surroundings. At one time, wolves roamed across nearly all of North America, Europe, and Asia. Wolves can live in forests, grasslands, mountains, and swamps, even in the frozen, treeless tundra of the far north. Wolves can also eat almost anything they catch, from a moose to a mouse.

Wolves may look very different from each other. A wolf might be almost any color, from white to black, through shades and mixtures of cream, gray, brown, and red. Some wolves are heavily furred all over their bodies; others have more fur around their necks and back. Some are large and powerful; others are smaller and quicker. Wolves even have different personalities; some are leaders, others are very social, and still others are “lone wolves.”

Wolves live in packs, but that is just a name for a family of wolves. Packs are usually made up of a leader male and female wolf and their young along with some close relatives. An average wolf pack has five to eight wolves, but a pack can have as few as two or three, or as many as twenty-five wolves.

The members of a pack are usually very friendly with each other. They hunt, travel, eat, and make noises together. Wolves bring bits of food

to each other. They babysit each other's litters. They run around and play tag with each other and with the pups. They startle each other by hiding and then jumping out.

Wolves make all kind of sound besides howling; they bark, growl, whine, and squeak. Barking seems to be a warning when a wolf is surprised at its den. Growling is common among pups when they play, and adults growl when challenged by another wolf. Whines and squeaks are connected with playing, feeding, and general good feeling. Mothers squeak when the pups play too roughly; fathers squeak to call their pups.

**Extended Response:**

Explain how a wolf society resembles a human society. Use information from the passage and what you already know to support your observations and conclusions.

**Directions:**

Make sure you

- read the question completely before you start to write your answer.
- write your answer to the question in your own words.
- write as clearly as you can so that another person can read your answer and understand what you were thinking.
- review your answer to see if you need to rewrite any part of your own words.

## Sample 1

*A wolf society resembles a human society in many ways. Like people, wolves are very mobile and can adjust to new surroundings. In addition, wolves have different types of appearances and different personalities. They live together in family units and interact with each other just as people do.*

*The author explains that wolves can live in many different types of environments such as "forests, grasslands, mountains, and swamps, even in the frozen, treeless tundras of the north." The same is true of people who live in many different parts of the world ranging from deserts to very cold climates. For example, in my own 7<sup>th</sup> grade classroom, there are students who have come from different parts of the world. It may take them some time to get used to life in the United States, but most of them get accustomed to America, and many like living here.*

*According to the text, wolves have different types of appearances and personalities. Some are larger and quicker than others. They also have different colors of fur. People vary in size, complexion, and hair color, too. In my class, there are students with dark hair and others with blonde hair. One of my friends is almost 6 feet tall, but there are students who are much shorter. In*

*sports, some students move very fast, but others are slower. Just as wolves have different personalities, so do people.*

*In the reading, the author explains that wolves live together in packs.*

*Many people live together in family units, too. Wolves help to care for their cubs, and people take care of their children, too. The author says that "the members of a pack are usually very friendly with each other." People tend to be social as well. For example, in my classroom, most of the students like to talk, tell jokes, and have fun doing things together.*

*Wolves and people have many things in common. Members of a wolf pack look different from each other, but they like to interact with each other and live together. People and wolves have more in common than I first imagined!*

Score: 4

**Rationale:** Throughout the response, the writer uses text evidence followed by personal connections/interpretations to show how the society of wolves is like the society of people. On a consistent basis, the writer provides evidence from the text to support his or her ideas. In addition, the writing is well-organized.

## Sample 2

*After reading this passage, I realize that wolves and people have many things in common. Here are some ways that they are alike. For example, both wolves and people have many kinds of food in their diets. They also have different types of personalities. Wolves and people also create their own groups.*

*In this passage, the author says, "Wolves can also eat almost anything they catch, from a moose to a mouse." Some people may hunt their own food, but many buy it at the grocery store. They can eat a variety of foods such as meats, vegetables, breads, and fish.*

*The writer also says that "Wolves even have different personalities; some are leaders, others are very social, and still other are 'lone wolves.'" I thought this was very interesting.*

*Based on the reading, wolves set up their own family groups. A mother, father, and children make up these groups. The same is true of human families. I live with my mom and my two brothers.*

*So, the next time I see a wolf family at the zoo or on television, I'll remember that they are a lot like people.*

**Score:** 3

**Rationale:** The writer shows a good understanding of the passage. Although the student provides evidence from the text, not all of the personal connections/reactions are specific enough. For example, in paragraph 3, the writer says that the social aspect of the wolf pack is interesting, but he or she does not elaborate. The connection in paragraph 4 needs to be strengthened as well.

### Sample 3

A wolf pack and a human society are alike in many ways. The wolf packs are found all over the world. If you look closely at a pack of wolves, you will notice that no two look are the same. And, wolves live in families just like people do.

The writer says that wolves live in different climates all over the world. They catch their own food, too.

Wolves look different, too. These animals can have dark hair, while others are lighter. I have dark hair, but my brother has red hair. Wolves come in many sizes, too. Some wolves move very fast because they are so strong and powerful. I don't think I want to see a wolf up close.

In a wolf pack, there are leaders and followers. The wolves help each other. They take care of each other and of their babies, too. To have fun, they play with each other and hide and jump. I think it's nice to have a lot of people in your family.



Before I never thought that I would have anything in common with a wolf, but I was wrong.

**Score:** 2

**Rationale:** The writer has included many good facts about wolves, but he or she has not offered meaningful connections or reactions. The personal comments that the writer does offer (such as *I don't think I want to see a wolf up close* and *I think it's nice to have a lot of people in your family*) do not really support the main ideas or build meaningful connections to the text.

Sample 4

**A wolf is big with dark fur. People are afraid of wolves. Me, too. Wolves are always hungry. They can bark and sound like dogs. Most wolf want to be alone. All over the world.**

Score: 1

**Rationale:** The writer has not integrated information from the text with personal connection or reaction. In addition, the writer does not appear to have comprehended the text or the extended response question. The first few statements appear to be common knowledge. The sentence, “Most wolf want to be alone,” is incorrect. This may be true of some wolves, but the author makes it clear that wolves have many different kinds of personalities. Some are very social.