**Text 1 (Jenny Lawson)**

“And I think I’m so sensitive to the smell of a dead deer because of the time when I accidentally walked inside one. I was about nine years old and I was playing chase with my sister while my father was cleaning a deer. I’m going to interrupt here for a small educational explanation about what it means to “clean a deer.”

 Cleaning a deer consists of tying up the arms and legs of the deer to the clothesline-like contraption, making it look as if the dead deer is a cheerleader doing the “Give me and X!” move. Then you slice open the stomach, and all the stuff you don’t want falls out. Like the genitals. And the poop rope.

 Anyway, my dad had just finished cleaning the deer when I made a recklessly fast, ninja-like U-turn to avoid getting tagged by my sister, and that’s when I ran. Right. Inside of the deer. It took me a moment to realize what had happened, and I stood there, kind of paralyzed and not ninja-like at all. The best way I can describe it is that it was kind of like I was wearing a deer sweater.”

**Text 2 (Don Aker)**

 “Ethan cursed as he steered onto Seminary Lane, the Volvo’s Michelins squealing through the turn. But he didn’t give a damn if the sound drew the neighbours to their windows, and he pushed the S80 forward, speed bumps jolting them like grenades in the undercarriage. He whipped the wheel right and swung the car into his driveway just as Rico called, “One!”

 “Yes!” he yelled, pumping the air with his fist.

 “Ethan!” shouted Pete.

Despite Ethan’s foot on the brake, the garage was still approaching, and he yanked the wheel left to avoid a full-on collision with the door. But the front fender clipped the corner of the garage with a whoomp! as they tore by, and the Volvo came to a bone-rattling stop.

**Text 3 (Barbara Carter)**

Gregory is my beautiful gray Persian cat. He walks with pride and grace, performing a dance of disdain as he slowly lifts and lowers each paw with the delicacy of a ballet dancer. His pride, however, does not extend to his appearance, for he spends most of his time indoors watching television and growing fat. He enjoys TV commercials, especially those for Meow Mix and 9 Lives. His familiarity with cat food commercials has led him to reject generic brands of cat food in favor of only the most expensive brands. Gregory is as finicky about visitors as he is about what he eats, befriending some and repelling others. He may snuggle up against your ankle, begging to be petted, or he may imitate a skunk and stain your favorite trousers. Gregory does not do this to establish his territory, as many cat experts think, but to humiliate me because he is jealous of my friends. After my guests have fled, I look at the old fleabag snoozing and smiling to himself in front of the television set, and I have to forgive him for his obnoxious, but endearing, habits.

**Text 4: Joyce Carol Oates**

Inside, the school smelled smartly of varnish and wood smoke from the potbellied stove. On gloomy days, not unknown in upstate New York in this region south of Lake Ontario and east of Lake Erie, the windows emitted a vague, gauzy light, not much reinforced by ceiling lights. We squinted at the blackboard, that seemed far away since it was on a small platform, where Mrs. Dietz's desk was also positioned, at the front, left of the room. We sat in rows of seats, smallest at the front, largest at the rear, attached at their bases by metal runners, like a toboggan; the wood of these desks seemed beautiful to me, smooth and of the red-burnished hue of horse chestnuts. The floor was bare wooden planks. An American flag hung limply at the far left of the blackboard and above the blackboard, running across the front of the room, designed to draw our eyes to it avidly, worshipfully, were paper squares showing that beautifully shaped script known as Parker Penmanship.

**Visualization Activity**

**ELA 9 – Ms. Cook & Ms. Horne**



**Visualizing** enhances the reading experience by allowing you to create images in your mind. Because each person has their own background knowledge, experiences, and makes his/her own inferences, no two visualizations will be identical.

Read the 4 short texts provided to you and choose the **ONE** that allowed you to create the most vivid mental image. One the back of your drawing, explain **WHY** you chose that particular passage. Was it the descriptive language, your past experiences or background knowledge? Your explanation should relate directly to the text and be a **minimum of 5 sentences**.

**Evaluation:**

1. *limited*
2. *approaching*
3. *satisfactory*
4. *excellent*
5. *outstanding*

**SCO 4.4:** **Use a variety of strategies (visualizing, connecting, inferring) to make meaning from texts**

Not Demonstrated 1 2 3 4 5

**SCO 6.1:** **Respond to what was read by questioning, connecting, evaluating, and extending; move beyond initial understanding to more thoughtful interpretations**

Not Demonstrated 1 2 3 4 5

**Comments:**