



Science Exemplary Text Student Handout

1980 New Year's Day

Charles Monet was a loner. He was a Frenchman who lived by himself in a little wooden bungalow on the private lands of the Nzoia Sugar Factory, a plantation in western Kenya that spread along the Nzoiz Rover within sight of Mount Elgon, a huge, solitary, extinct volcano that rises to a height of fourteen thousand feet near the edge of the Rift Valley. Monet's history is a little obscure. As with so many expatriates who end up in Africa, it is not clear what brought him there. Perhaps he had been in some kind of trouble in France. Or perhaps he had been drawn to Kenya by the beauty of the country. He was an amateur naturalist, fond of birds and animals but not of humanity in general. He was fifty-six years old, of medium height and medium build with smooth, straight brown hair; a good-looking man. It seems that his only close friends were women who lived in towns around the mountain, yet even they could not recall much about him for the doctors who investigated his death. His job was to take care of the sugar factory's water-pumping machinery, which drew water from the Nzoia River and delivered it to many miles of sugar-cane fields. They say that he spent most of his day inside the pump house by the river as if it pleased him to watch and listen to the machines doing their work.

Preston, Richard. (1995). "Something in the Forest." *The Hot Zone: A Terrifying True Story*. New York: Anchor.

This is an example of exemplary text found in *Common Core Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects: Appendix B Text Exemplars and Sample Performance Tasks*. Retrieved from http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf

Science Exemplary Text Teacher Resource

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EFL 5
Word Count 317

Teacher introduces the text with minimal commentary and students read it independently. Teacher then reads passage aloud. Give a brief definition to words students would likely not be able to define from context (underlined in text). Teacher guides the students through a series of text-dependent questions. Complete the performance task as a cumulative evaluation of the close-reading.

Text-Dependent Questions

1. What words or phrases from the text tell us about Monet's personality?
2. Why does the article say Monet might have left France?
3. What did Monet like?
4. What were some of his dislikes?
5. Why did the author include the part about the women Monet knew in the mountains? What does it say about Monet's character?

Performance Tasks for Informational Texts
Explain Monet's job and lifestyle as we are told about it in this passage. Use words or phrases from the text that analyzes what kind of man Charles Monet was. [RI.9-10.4]

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