Reading Comprehension: Poetry

SHSAT English - Week Six

Aim: How do we approach poems on the SHSAT?

Do Now: What are some of the distinguishing characteristics of poems?

Some terminology

Term	Definition	Example
Rhyme	The repetition of sounds at the end of words	The sun was done, but we felt like we won; we had run and spun having fun.
Simile	A comparison of two things that uses “like” or “as”	She ran as swiftly as a deer.
Stanza	A group of lines in a poem	The first stanza of “Success” by Emily Dickinson is: Success is counted sweetest By those who ne’er succeed. To comprehend a nectar Requires sorest need.

Some terminology

Term	Definition	Example
Structure	The order and format of a passage or poem	The structure of the poem “I Have Found What You Are Like” by E.E. Cummings reinforces the poet’s comparison of a person to falling raindrops: —in the woods which stutter and sing
Symbol	Something that is used to represent a particular idea	A red rose is a symbol of love.
Metaphor	A comparison of two things that does not use the words “like” or “as”	The singer was a beautiful sparrow on stage.
Imagery	Words and phrases that provide information about what someone may see, hear, feel, touch, or taste	The cool water tasted clean and crisp as I gulped it loudly, clutching the worn green canteen in my sweating palms.
Irony	A surprising contradiction or contrast	In the short story, “The Gift of the Magi” by O. Henry, a wife sells her hair to buy her husband a chain for his beloved watch, not knowing that her husband has just sold his watch to buy decorative combs for her beautiful long hair.
Personification	Words or phrases that give a nonhuman subject human characteristics	The flowers danced in the light breeze.

Remember these concepts from our fictional texts?

Tone

An attitude such as sad, humorous, etc. that the author tries to convey using specific words. For example, i the author uses words such as “delightful”, “joy”, the tone is happy.

Theme

The overall idea, moral, or lesson. Think, “What does the author what me to know after reading the passage?” For example, *Macbeth* contain themes such as “the dangers of unchecked ambitions” and “the difference between appearance and reality”.

Keep tone and theme in mind as you answer the questions - they help you identify the author’s intentions or the message they are trying to send.

You will also encounter 4 question types for Poetry passages

Global questions ask about the theme or central idea of the poem. This should be something you take note of while actively reading, so use your notes and avoid re-reading the whole poem.

Detail questions ask about specific information in the poem. They may ask about a word, a phrase, or specific language the poet includes. Use line or stanza references, or specific phrasing in the question, to find the relevant section of the poem.

You will also encounter 4 question types for Poetry passages

Inference questions ask you to support an idea that the poem conveys, or to explain the meaning of imagery in the poem. Look for clues and make sure you can always back up your answer with evidence in the poem.

Function questions identify a feature of the poem—a line, a stanza, or imagery—and ask you to consider either why or how the poet uses the feature. Think about why the author may have included this cited feature (tone and theme), and make sure to read a bit before and after the cited feature to get the proper context.

Approaching the Poetry Passage

Similar to Fictional Texts, there are 3 steps to answering questions for a poetry passage.

Step 1: Active Reading

As you read the passage, take notes. Pay attention to:

- **The topic.** (and the narrator, if applicable).
- **The mood.** What feelings does the poem create in the reader? What words would you use to describe the mood?
- **The poet's message.** What does the poem mean in your own words? What information is the poet trying to convey?

Approaching the Poetry Passage

Step 2: Read the Questions and Answer Choices

Think about the four types of questions and how to answer them (in the above slides).

Step 3: Predict and Answer!

Read each question carefully and thoroughly. Determine exactly what the question is asking. Go back to the lines or stanza mentioned in the question to look up the answer in the poem. Find support for your answer using information from the poem before you pick your answer.

Charts and Data Interpretation; Ratios and Proportions

SHSAT Math - Week Six

Permutations and Combinations

- **Permutations:** Sequences in which *order matters.* For example, for a numerical lock pad, if the key is 4 - 7 - 2, you cannot rearrange the numbers and the lock would still open => order matters.
- **Combinations:** How many ways can certain things be combined, *order doesn't matter.* For example: A fruit salad is a combination of apple, banana, and grape. It doesn't matter if the order is banana, apple, and grape, it's still the same fruit salad.

Example

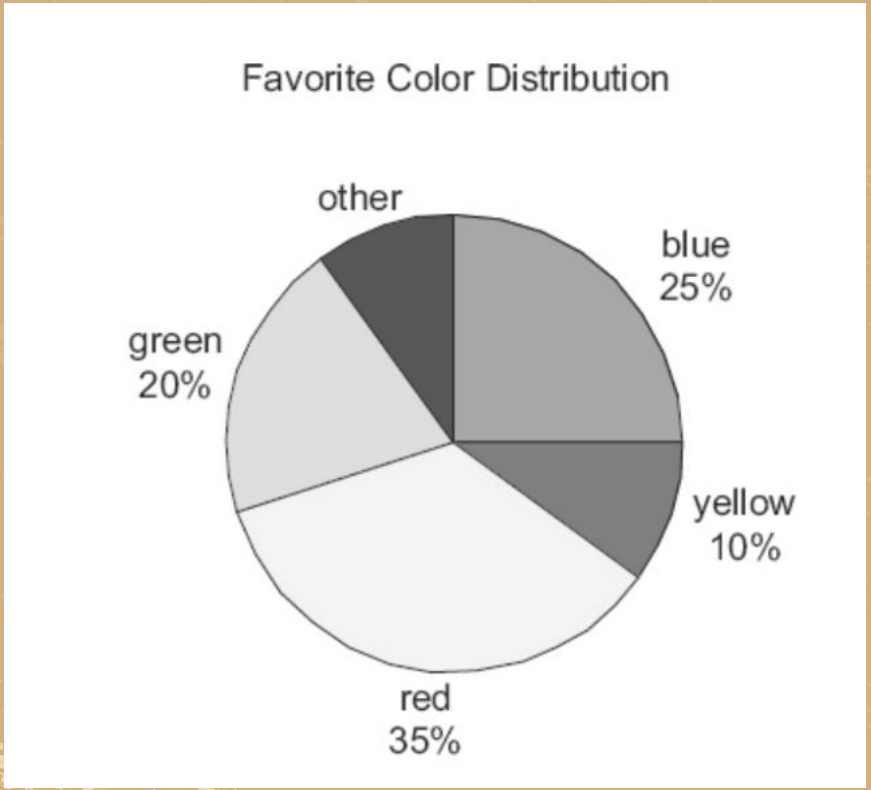
Permutation: How many ways can you list your top 3 desserts, in order, out of a list of 10?

- In this case, order matters => Permutation
- For your top dessert, you have 10 different choices. For your second favorite, you have 9 choices (because you have already chosen one as your favorite), and for your third favorite, you have 8 choices. => The number of ways you can list your top 3 desserts = 10*9*8 = 720 ways.

Combination: How many ways can you choose 3 desserts out of a list of 10?

- In this case, order doesn't matter => Combination
- Like above, you have 10 choices for your first dessert, 9 for your second, and 8 for your third. However, choosing cake, ice cream, and brownies is the same as choosing ice cream, brownies, and cake, so you have to account for these redundancies. For each combination of 3 desserts, there are 3*2*1 = 6 permutations. So to find the number of combinations of 3 desserts out of 10, divide the permutations by the redundancies: 720/6 = 120.

Pie Chart



Which color was the most popular? Which was the least?

If 200 people were surveyed, how many more people picked red than yellow as their favorite color?

Data Tables

A frequency table shows the number of times each value appears in the data set.

- To find the **mean**, multiply each value by the frequency, add all these products, then divide by the total number of values (frequencies).
- To find the **median**, add the frequencies to find the number of values, then determine which group the middle value falls into.

Value	Frequency
4	5
5	2
6	4
7	4
8	6

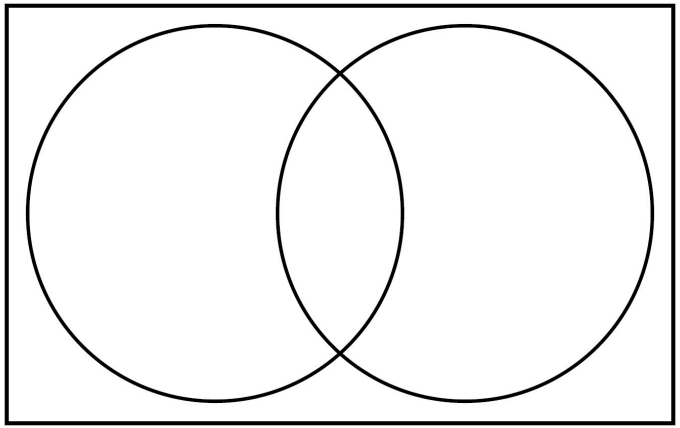
A. What is the mean of the data in the table above?

B. What is the median of the data in the table above?

Venn Diagrams

A survey polled students to determine whether they liked the summer or winter season. Below are the results of the survey:

- 50 students answered summer.
- 40 students answered winter.
- 15 students said both summer and winter.
- 20 students said neither summer nor winter.



A. How many students answered summer only?

B. How many students answered winter only?

C. How many students were surveyed?

Ratios and Proportions

Ratios show the relationship between 2 quantities. They can be expressed as x : y, or x/y.
If there are 3 red candies and 5 green candies, the ratio of red to green candies is 3 : 5 or 3/5.

Part-to-part and part-to-whole ratios:
The ratio of red candies to all candies is 3/(3+5) = 3/8.
Similarly, the ratio of green candies to all candies is 5/(3+5) = 5/8.
You can convert part-to-part ratios to part-to-whole by putting the numerator in the original ratio over the sum of the parts.

A **proportion** is two ratios set equal to each other.

$$\frac{x}{5} = \frac{3}{4}$$

To solve a proportion, cross multiply.

$$4x = 5(3)$$

$$x = \frac{15}{4} \text{ or } 3.75$$

Conversions

Familiarize yourself with both the US (Imperial) system and the metric system. You should know:

- 1 meter = 0.001 kilometer = 1000 millimeters = 100 centimeters
- 1 gram = 0.001 kilogram = 1000 milligrams
- 1 liter = 1000 milliliters

To go from a base unit (no prefix) to kilo, divide by 1000. To go from a base unit to milli, multiply by 1000. To go to centi, multiply by 100.

1 inch [in]	1 inch [in]
1 foot [ft]	12 [in]
1 yard [yd]	3 [ft]
1 mile [mi]	1760 [yd]

Sometimes, you may see units you haven't seen before. To convert them, set up proportions that leave the desired unit. For example:
Convert 4 leagues into furlongs, given that a league is 3 miles, and a mile is 8 furlongs.

$$4 \text{ leagues} \times \frac{3 \text{ miles}}{1 \text{ league}} \times \frac{8 \text{ furlongs}}{1 \text{ mile}} = 4 \times 3 \times 8 \text{ furlongs} = 96 \text{ furlongs}$$