

Name: _____

Article 1

Do You Have Any Advice For Those of Us Just Starting Out?

Give up sitting dutifully at your desk. Leave your house or apartment. Go out into the world.

5 It's all right to carry a notebook but a cheap one is best, with pages the color of weak tea and on the front a kitten or a space ship.

Avoid any enclosed space where more than three people are wearing turtlenecks. Beware any snow-covered chalet with deer tracks across the muffled tennis courts.

10 Not surprisingly, libraries are a good place to write. And the perfect place in a library is near an aisle where a child a year or two old is playing as his mother browses the ranks of the dead.

15 Often he will pull books from the bottom shelf. The title, the author's name, the brooding photo on the flap mean nothing. Red book on black, gray book on brown, he builds a tower. And the higher it gets, the wider he grins.

20 You who asked for advice, listen: When the tower falls, be like that child. Laugh so loud everybody in the world frowns and says, "Shhhh."

Then start again.

Ron Koertge, "Do You Have Any Advice For Those of Us Just Starting Out?" © 2006 by Ron Koertge.

Question 28

In the poem, the speaker is giving advice to someone. In your own words, restate the advice and explain why you would or would not follow it.

Rubrics

Question 28

Analytic Rubric

	Content	Organization	Language
4	The response demonstrates a clear understanding of the task. Ideas are thoroughly explained.	Organization is unified and coherent, with a logical progression of ideas.	The language of the response is clear and effectively conveys ideas. Although there may be a few minor errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics, meaning is clear throughout the response.
3	The response demonstrates an adequate understanding of the task. Ideas are adequately explained.	Organization is apparent, with ideas logically grouped.	The language of the response is mostly clear and adequately conveys ideas. There may be some distracting errors in grammar, usage, and/or mechanics, but meaning is usually clear.
2	The response demonstrates a limited understanding of the task. Explanations of ideas are incomplete or unclear.	Organization is simple, with some ideas logically grouped.	The language of the response is sometimes clear, but some ideas are difficult to comprehend. Errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics may be distracting and may sometimes impede understanding.
1	The response demonstrates little or no understanding of the task. The response lacks explanation of ideas.	Organization of ideas is not clear, with little evidence, if any, of the logical grouping of ideas.	The language of the response is mostly unclear, and ideas are hard to comprehend. Errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics may frequently be distracting and may significantly impede understanding.

Total: _____