

Using R2D2 to Answer Short Response Questions

The Warmup

10 minutes

Say Today, I'd like to show you a tool to maximize the points you receive for a short response question. First, let me share with you how short answers are generally scored.

2 points	You'll get 2 points if you make proper inferences from the text and then back up your inference with details from the reading passage. Making inferences means using what you've read to come to a conclusion. You also need to write in complete sentences.
1 point	You'll get 1 point if you just recount or restate the text without making proper inferences from what you've read. You do not do as good a job pulling details from the text, and you don't write in complete sentences.
0 points	You'll get 0 points if you have no response or a response that doesn't address the question at all.

Ask So when you respond to a short answer question, how many points should you be aiming for?

Say We want to score 2 points. The good news is that I know the "secret formula" that will have you score 2 points on every short answer question you tackle.

Ask Would you like me to let you in on this secret?

How many of you have heard of R2D2 from the Star Wars films?

Say R2D2 was a droid who was very useful in rescuing his masters and friends from peril. He was always able to provide a solution. We're going to use R2D2 to help us do the same thing.

Direct Instruction

10 minutes

Say For us, R2D2 is an acronym. Remember, an acronym is a set of letters where each letter stands for something. Here's what it stands for:

R – stands for “Respond.” Your first statement should tell us how you are responding to the question. Are you agreeing? Are you disagreeing? How are you describing the character or situation? What inference are you making?

2D – stands for “Two Details.” You need to find two details from the text to support your response. You can either paraphrase the details, which means “to say it in your own words” or rewrite them exactly.

The Final **2** stand for “2gether” - meaning you should bring it all **together** with a final sentence.

R2D2 – it’s pretty simple to understand. Let’s see how it works by reading “*Why Does My Foot Fall Asleep?*” (see page 5)

Do Read the passage aloud. Then read the short-response question.

Use the Answer Key to walk through the three parts of the R2D2 response.

Say First, you have to respond to the question.

Second, go and find two details to support your response. The key here is that your details need to be found “in the text”. You can either quote them directly or paraphrase them.

Third, you’ll need a final closing statement that brings it all together.

Do Read the R2D2 response.

Say This response would receive 2 points because it properly makes inferences from the article.

Guided Practice

10 minutes

Ask Let’s try this together. Read the next short-response question.

How could we use the R2D2 tool to answer this question?

Say Let’s start by writing our response.

R	How would you respond to this question?
2 D	What two details from the text could you use to support your response? Remember you could paraphrase what you read or you could quote it directly from the reading passage.
2	What closing statement could you use to bring it all together?

- Do** Give the students a few minutes to write their response.
- Say** Would you like to see the answer I came up with?
- Do** Share your R2D2 response.
- Ask** With R2D2 responses, there could be more than one correct answer. Who had a different response than what I have here?
- Say** Let's walk through your response and see if it fits the tool. Let's see if you'd be able to get the maximum 2 points for your response.
- Do** Walk through the student response pointing out where it fits the tool and if it would qualify for the maximum two points.
- Say** Let's walk through the third question together and look to see how we could use R2D2 to answer it.
- Do** Walk through your R2D2 response to the question. See what other responses students have. Walk through the responses to see how well it fits the R2D2 model.

Independent Practice

10-15 minutes

- Say** Now it's your turn. Find a partner. Together read "*I'm All Teared Up*" (see page 7) and apply the R2D2 tool to the two short response questions.
- Do** Have the students complete the two questions. When the students are complete, take volunteers to walk through their responses to see how well they fit the R2D2 model.
- Say** Let's review your responses. I'm looking for a brave partnership that will allow us to use their response as an example for us to walkthrough.
- Do** Select a partnership willing to have their answer reviewed. Walk through the answer checking for the R2D2 elements. If the answer does not fit the R2D2 format, point out what would be needed it for the response to receive the maximum points.
- Say** I'm going to give you an opportunity that you usually never get to do when taking a test. You get to score your answer. Using our 0, 1, or 2 scoring system, give

yourself a score for your answer. Remember if you apply R2D2 correctly, you could get a perfect 2 pts every time.

Do Repeat the process for the second short response question.

Teacher Reflections:

Why Does My Foot Fall Asleep?



- 1 Jenna had been coloring for almost 25 minutes, sitting with one leg tucked under her. When the bell rang, she jumped up and her leg felt funny. It was asleep! If this has happened to you, you know that for a short while you might have lost feeling in your foot, it might have felt heavy, or you might have felt "pins and needles." But why would your foot fall asleep?
- 2 Many people say this is because you've cut off the blood supply to your foot, but your nerves are more to blame. Nerves are like tiny threads or wires that run through your whole body, and they carry messages back and forth between your brain and body.
- 3 When you sit on your foot, you temporarily compress, or squash, the nerves in that area. These nerves can't send messages back to the brain normally, and so for the moment, the connection is cut off and you don't feel anything. It's kind of like a phone call where your friend hangs up and you haven't yet. Your brain is saying "hello," but your foot isn't able to answer.
- 4 After you stand up or uncross your legs and the nerves are no longer compressed, the feeling in your foot soon comes back. It might feel a bit tingly as this happens, like pins and needles or even a bit painful. But it only lasts a few seconds as the connection returns to normal, and it won't hurt your body.
- 5 Worried about your sleepy feet? You don't need to be — everyone has a foot fall asleep once in a while, and it's rare for it to mean there is something wrong in your body. If you want to keep your feet awake and kicking, don't sit on them or put them in other positions where you're squashing the nerves.

Short Response:

1. What are nerves? What do they do?

2 Point Response: Nerves are very important and they do a very important job. They run through your entire body like tiny threads or wires. These tiny threads are used to relay messages from your brain to all the different parts of your body. Without nerves your brain wouldn't be able to communicate with your body.

1 Point Response: Nerves are very important and they do a very important job. They relay messages from your brain to all the different parts of your body. Without nerves your brain wouldn't be able to communicate with your body.

0 Point Response: Nerves are very important and they do a very important job.

Aligned CCLS: L.4.6

2. Should you worry when your foot falls asleep? Why or why not?

2 Point Response: No, you're foot falling asleep is nothing to be worried about. Your foot will only be asleep for a short period of time, and it will feel normal when your nerves are no longer compressed. It rarely means there is anything wrong with your foot. There is no need to panic.

1 Point Response: No, you're foot falling asleep is nothing to be worried about. It rarely means there is anything wrong with your foot. There is no need to panic.

0 Point Response: No, you're foot falling asleep is nothing to be worried about.

Aligned CCLS: RI.4.2

I'm All Teared Up



1 You're walking home from school on a windy November day when — whoosh! — a breezy blast smacks you in the face. As your teeth start to chatter and you pull your jacket closed, you notice your eyes are tearing up. Your eyes are tearing, but you're not sad. What's going on?

Tell Me About Tears

2 When your eyes water, they're making tears, just like when you cry. The tears from watering eyes help protect your eyes. How? By keeping them moist and washing out dust and other foreign stuff that gets in there. The tears from watering eyes might only fill your eyes or they might trickle down your face.

3 Whether you're crying or your eyes are just tearing, the liquid in your eyes is created the same way. All tears come out of tear glands found way up under your upper eyelids. Tears wash down from the glands and over your eyes.

4 Some of the tears drain out of your eyes through tear ducts. These ducts are tiny tubes that run between your eyes and your nose. Each tear duct is like a tiny bathtub drain. When the tears fill up your eyes, they drain out through the tear ducts. You have two tear ducts — one near the inside corner of each eye. You can see these holes if you gently pull down your lower eyelid a bit.

5 If tears are flowing quickly, like when you're crying pretty hard, the ducts can't drain them all, so tears run down your face. And have you ever noticed that your nose sometimes runs when you cry? That's because some of the tears making their exit through the ducts end up coming out of your nose.

Tear Trouble

6 You might not think twice about your watering eyes, but some people do have trouble making tears because their tear glands don't produce enough tears. Certain medical conditions or medicines can cause dry eyes. Another problem is not being able to drain the tears, so the eyes can get too full of liquid. This may happen because someone has a blocked tear duct. Babies can be born with blocked tear ducts. They usually open on their own, but some babies need a small operation to clear the ducts.

7 So now you know what your eyes are up to when they get all wet. It's such a beautiful story, it brought tears to our eyes!

Short Response:

1. How do tears protect your eyes?

2 Point Response: Your eyes produce liquid, or tears, in order to protect themselves. Tears keep your eyes moist and prevent them from drying out. They also wash out dust and other foreign objects that might get into your eye. Tears are an important part of keeping your eyes safe and working properly.

1 Point Response: Your eyes produce liquid, or tears, in order to protect themselves. Tears wash out dust and other foreign objects that might get into your eye. In this way, tears are an important part of keeping your eyes safe and working properly.

0 Point Response: The tears you produce help protect your eyes.

Aligned CCLS: RI.4.3

2. Why do some people have trouble making tears?

2 Point Response: Unfortunately, some people have trouble making the tears they need. Sometimes this is because the glands in their eyes don't produce enough tears. Certain medical conditions or medicines can also prevent the body from producing the right amount of tears. Without enough tears, your eyes are left dry, uncomfortable, and unprotected.

1 Point Response: Unfortunately, some people have trouble making the tears they need. Certain medical conditions or medicines can also prevent the body from producing the right amount of tears. Without enough tears, your eyes are left dry, uncomfortable, and unprotected.

0 Point Response: Unfortunately, some people have trouble making the tears they need.

Aligned CCLS: RI.4.3