

TN859127

Read the passages and write a response to the Writing Prompt.

Passage 1
Excerpt from *Andy Lovell*

by T.S. Arthur

In this story, Andy has lost interest in his shoemaking business after his three children died of scarlet fever.

- 1 Customers, getting discouraged or offended, dropped away, but it gave Andy no concern. He had, no longer, any heart in his business; and worked in it more like an automaton than a live human being.
- 2 At last, Andy suddenly made up his mind to shut up his shop, and retire from business. He had saved enough to live on—why should he go on any longer in this halting, miserable way—a public servant, yet pleasing nobody?
- 3 Mrs. Lovell hardly knew what to say in answer to her husband’s suddenly formed resolution. It was as he alleged; they had laid up sufficient; to make them comfortable for the rest of their lives; and, sure enough, why should Andy worry himself any longer with the shop? As far as her poor reason went, Mrs. Lovell had nothing to oppose; but all her instincts were on the other side—she could not feel that it would be right.
- 4 But Andy, when he made up his mind to a thing, was what people call hard-headed. His “I won’t stand it any longer,” meant more than this common form of speech on the lips of ordinary men. So he gave it out that he should quit business; and it was soon all over the village. Of course Tompkins and Lyon¹ were well enough pleased, but there were a great many who heard of the

shoemaker's determination with regret. In the face of all difficulties and annoyances, they had continued to depend on him for foot garniture², and were now haunted by unpleasant images of cramped toes, corns, bunyons, and all the varied ill attendant on badly made and badly fitting shoes, boots, and gaiters. The retirement of Andy, cross and unaccommodating as he had become, was felt, in many homes, to be a public calamity.

5 "Don't think of such a thing, Mr. Lovell," said one.

6 "We can't do without you," asserted another.

7 "You'll not give up altogether," pleaded a third, almost coaxingly.

8 But Andy Lovell was tired of working without any heart in his work; and more tired of the constant fret and worry attendant upon a business in which his mind had ceased to feel interest. So he kept to his resolution, and went on with his arrangements for closing the shop.

9 "What are you going to do?" asked a neighbor.

10 "Do?" Andy looked, in some surprise, at his interrogator.

11 "Yes. What are you going to do? A man in good health, at your time of life, can't be idle. Rust will eat him up."

12 "Rust?" Andy looked slightly bewildered.

13 "What's this?" asked the neighbor, taking something from Andy's counter.

14 "An old knife," was the reply. "It dropped out of the window two or three months ago and was lost. I picked it up this morning."

15 "It's in a sorry condition," said the neighbor. "Half eaten up with rust, and good for nothing."

16 "And yet," replied the shoemaker, "there was better stuff in that knife, before it was lost, than in any other knife in the shop."

17 "Better than in this?" And the neighbor lifted a clean, sharp-edged knife from Andy's cutting-board.

18 "Worth two of it."

19 "Which knife is oldest?" asked the neighbor.

- 20 "I bought them at the same time."
- 21 "And this has been in constant use?"
- 22 "Yes."
- 23 "While the other lay idle, and exposed to the rains and dews?"
- 24 "And so has become rusted and good for nothing. Andy, my friend, just so rusted, and good for nothing as a man, are you in danger of becoming. Don't quit business; don't fall out of your place; don't pass from useful work into self-corroding idleness. You'll be miserable—miserable."
- 25 The pertinence of this illustration struck the mind of Andy Lovell, and set him to thinking; and the more he thought, the more disturbed became his mental state. He had, as we have seen, no longer any heart in his business. All that he desired was obtained—enough to live on comfortably; why, then, should he trouble himself with hard-to-please and ill-natured customers? This was one side of the question.
- 26 The rusty knife suggested the other side. So there was conflict in his mind; but only a disturbing conflict. Reason acted too feebly on the side of these new-coming convictions. A desire to be at once, and to escape daily work and daily troubles, was stronger than any cold judgment of the case.
- 27 "I'll find something to do," he said, within himself, and so pushed aside unpleasantly intruding thoughts. But Mrs. Lovell did not fail to observe, that since, her husband's determination to go out of business, he had become more irritable than before, and less at ease in every way.
- 28 The closing day came at last. Andy Lovell shut the blinds before the windows of his shop, at night-fall, saying, as he did so, but in a half-hearted, depressed kind of a way, "For the last time;" and then going inside, sat down in front of the counter, feeling strangely and ill at ease. The future looked very blank. There was nothing in it to strive for, to hope for, to live for.

¹**Tompkins and Lyon:** other shoemakers in the same town

²**garniture:** decoration

Passage 2

The Song of the Old Mother

by William Butler Yeats

I rise in the dawn, and I kneel and blow
Till the seed of the fire flicker and glow;
And then I must scrub and bake and sweep
Till stars are beginning to blink and peep;
And the young lie long and dream in their bed
Of the matching of ribbons for bosom and head,
And their day goes over in idleness,
And they sigh if the wind but lift a tress³: While
I must work because I am old,
And the seed of the fire gets feeble and cold.

³ **tress**: a long lock of hair

“The Song of the Old Mother” from *Second Book of the Rhymers’ Club* by W. B. Yeats. 1894. In the public domain.

Writing Prompt

Write an essay analyzing how **both** passages address a common theme. Develop your essay by providing textual evidence from **both** passages.

Manage your time carefully so that you can

- plan your essay and do some prewriting in the space provided.
- write your essay on the lined pages of your answer document.

Be sure to

- use evidence from **both** passages.
- avoid over-relying on one passage.

Your written response should be in the form of a multi-paragraph informational essay.

Write your essay on the lined pages of your answer document. Anything you write that is not on the lined pages of your answer document will NOT be scored.