

Comic Strip Rubric
(45 possible points)

Group Members _____

E-Excellent 5 pts VG-Very Good 4 pts G-Good 3 pts F-Fair 2 pts U-Unacceptable

Content

Clearly explained the characters	E	VG	G	F	U
Clearly explained the plot	E	VG	G	F	U
Clearly explained the point of view	E	VG	G	F	U
Clearly explained the tone	E	VG	G	F	U

Presentation

Spoke audibly so that everyone could hear	E	VG	G	F	U
Spoke clearly so that everyone could understand	E	VG	G	F	U
Correctly answered any questions from the audience	E	VG	G	F	U

Teamwork

Each member had the opportunity to speak	E	VG	G	F	U
Each member contributed to the explanations	E	VG	G	F	U

FCAT Reading Assessment

THE BALLAD OF THE OYSTERMAN

by

Oliver Wendell Holmes

1809-1894

It was a tall young oysterman, lived by the riverside,
His shop was just upon the bank, his boat was on the tide;
The daughter of a fisherman, that was so straight and slim,
Lived over on the other bank, right opposite to him.

It was the pensive oysterman that saw a lively maid,
Upon a moonlight evening, a-sitting in the shade;
He saw her wave a handkerchief, as much as if to say,
“I’m wide awake, young oysterman, and all the folks away.”

Then up arose the oysterman, and to himself he said,
“I guess I’ll leave the skiff at home, for fear that folks should see;
I read it in the story-book, that for to kiss his dear,
Leander swam the Hellespont,—and I will swim this here.”

And he leaped into the waves, and crossed the shining stream,
And clambered up the bank, all in the moonlight gleam;
Oh there were kisses sweet as dew, and words as soft as rain,
But they heard her father’s step, and in he leaps again!

Out spoke the ancient fisherman, “Now bring me my harpoon!
I’ll get into my fishing-boat, and fix the fellow soon.”
Down fell that pretty innocent, as falls a snowwhite lamb,
Her hair drooped round her pallid cheeks, like seaweed on a clam.

Alas for those two loving ones! she waked not from her swoond,
And he was taken with a cramp, and in the waves he drowned;
But Fate has metamorphosed them, in pity of their woe,
And now they keep an oyster-shop for mermaids down below.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

What is the tone Oliver Wendell Holmes uses in “The Ballad of the Oysterman”? How does the poet create this tone? Support your answer with details and information from the poem.

A top-scoring response might be that the overall tone of the poem is humorous. To support, the response might include some of the points: m characters appear comic rather than tragic; the language and characters’ are overly expressive—her waving her handkerchief while she was “a-sitti the shade”; the description of his swim with such phrases as “leaped into waves,” “crossed the shining waves,” “clambered up the bank”; the tritene “kisses sweet as dew,” “words soft as rain”; the humorous description of h falling like a “snowwhite lamb” and “Her hair drooped round her pallid che like seaweed on a clam.” The poem ends on a humorous scene also.