

LESSON 54: MY SLATE

I TOOLS OF CLASSICAL LEARNING • STONE & WOODEN JOINERY

• **Structure of a Slate:** A student slate consists of a flat sheet of natural stone bordered by a four-sided wooden frame held by pegs.

• **Precise Writing Instruments:** We write on stone slates with a pointed slate pencil and erase our work with a soft damp sponge.



♦ OBJECT STUDY • THE STUDENT SLATE

Observe the slate board: Notice the dark stone writing surface, the four wooden frame sides pinned with pegs, and the slate pencil tied with string.

• WRITE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS IN COMPLETE STATEMENTS:

1. Of what is your slate made?

2. What color is it?

3. What has it around it?

4. Of what is the frame made?

5. How many sides has the frame?

6. How are the sides held together?

7. With what are some slates covered?

8. With what do you write upon your slate?

SELF CHECK Every response is a full statement • Capital letter at start • Period (.) at end.

LESSON 54: MY SLATE — ANSWER KEY

CLASSICAL PEDAGOGY & INQUIRY FOCUS

Classic Pedagogical Focus: Material analysis and structural inquiry into early American/Victorian classroom tools. Pupils examine how a common slate was manufactured (quarried metamorphic slate stone, slotted wooden frame joined by wooden pegs or dowels, flannel/leather wrapped to prevent desk noise, and pencil made of softer slate).

Socratic Classroom Sequence: Conduct an oral discussion before writing. Have pupils state full sentences aloud. Emphasize that every statement must have a naming part (subject) and a telling part (predicate).

• EXEMPLARY ANSWERS & SENTENCE CONSTRUCTION MODELS

• Question 1: Of what is your slate made?

Model Answer: My slate is made of smooth natural stone.

Teaching Guidance: Identify the stone material.

• Question 2: What color is it?

Model Answer: It is dark gray (or black).

Teaching Guidance: Color attribution.

• Question 3: What has it around it?

Model Answer: It has a sturdy wooden frame around it.

Teaching Guidance: Surrounding boundary.

• Question 4: Of what is the frame made?

Model Answer: The frame is made of wood.

Teaching Guidance: Material of the frame.

• Question 5: How many sides has the frame?

Model Answer: The frame has four sides.

Teaching Guidance: Geometric count of sides.

• Question 6: How are the sides held together?

Model Answer: The sides are held together with small wooden pegs.

Teaching Guidance: Joinery terminology (pegs/dowels).

• Question 7: With what are some slates covered?

Model Answer: Some slates are covered with cloth or leather around the frame.

Teaching Guidance: Sound-dampening covering.

• Question 8: With what do you write upon your slate?

Model Answer: I write upon my slate with a slate pencil.

Teaching Guidance: Distinct instrument: slate pencil.

Common Errors to Address: Watch for fragment answers. Insist that every answer forms a complete grammatical sentence beginning with a capital letter and ending with appropriate punctuation.