



## Critical Reading Practice—Answer Key

After reading the selection of Christopher Paolini's *Eragon* on page 21 of the January 2007 issue of *Writing*, answer the following multiple-choice questions and complete the writing prompt.

- 1. What color was the egg from which the dragon emerged?**
  - a. icy blue
  - b. sapphire blue**
  - c. bright red
  - d. the color of polished ivory
- 2. What do we learn about the dragon's personality from the physical description that Paolini provides in the third paragraph of this excerpt?**
  - a. The dragon is upset.
  - b. The dragon is curious about its surroundings.**
  - c. The dragon is eager to fly.
  - d. The dragon is evil.
- 3. In the fourth paragraph of the above selection, Paolini writes "Tentatively, he reached out with his right hand and touched its flank." Based on what has happened in the story so far, how would you define *tentatively*?**
  - a. courageously
  - b. excitedly
  - c. cautiously**
  - d. enviously
- 4. What tone would you attribute to this excerpt from *Eragon*?**
  - a. action adventure
  - b. descriptive**
  - c. dramatic
  - d. sentimental
5. On a separate sheet of paper, write a two-paragraph narration of your interaction with a real or imaginary pet. In the first paragraph, describe the pet and its actions. In the second paragraph, describe your response to it. Try to imitate Christopher Paolini's style, as much as possible. You can use the lines below to take notes.

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**ANSWERS WILL VARY**

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