Introduction:
Shaquille O’Neal, a superstar in the National Basketball Association, grew up in a military family. Moving to new places and attending new schools was a part of his childhood. In this excerpt from the book *On the Court . . . with Shaquille O’Neal*, the family has moved from their home in Germany to the United States.

Growing Up . . . and Up
*by Glenn Stout*

When Shaquille walked into Cole High School in San Antonio, Texas, for his first day of school, everyone looked up to him—but only because of his size. Shaquille was determined that before long, they’d look up to him because he was a leader.

Although it was too late in the year for Shaquille to join the basketball team, Coach Dave Madura heard about him just moments after he stepped into the school for the first time. Cole was a small school, and most athletes were far more interested in playing football than basketball. Those students who preferred basketball were nowhere near as big as Shaquille.

Many students at Cole were from military families and transferred in and out of the school midyear. Madura rarely knew which players he would have from one year to the next. But because Shaquille was already in tenth grade, he knew there was a good chance that Shaquille would stay at Cole until he graduated, but there was no guarantee.

Even after Madura learned that Shaquille had been an emerging star in Germany, he was still a little skeptical. He had coached many players from military families who had played in Germany, but few of them had managed to adjust to the much more competitive game played in American high schools. He reserved judgment until he had a chance to see the new tenth-grader play.
When he did, he was pleasantly surprised. Although Shaquille was still sort of clumsy and slow, he was huge. More important, however, Madura also noticed that Shaquille was eager to learn and worked very hard. He knew that if Shaquille worked hard enough, he had the potential to be a star. Coach Madura kept a close eye on him for the rest of the year and during the summer. The more he saw, the better he felt about Shaquille’s prospects.

Shaquille, meanwhile, was adjusting well to life in Texas. Before school started the following fall, he told the Cole football coach he wanted to try out for the football team. To his surprise, the coach replied, “Absolutely not.” It turned out that Coach Madura had already spoken to the football coach about Shaquille’s potential, and the two men agreed that Shaquille’s athletic future was in basketball. There was simply too much risk of an injury if he played football. As the football coach recalled later, “We all knew he’d be an NBA player.”
Listening/Writing Rubric Key Points

Listening Task: “Growing Up ... and Up”

Question 34
What finally convinced Coach Madura that Shaquille could be a star? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Possible Exemplary Response:
Coach Madura saw Shaquille play and, although Shaquille was a little clumsy and slow, the more he saw Shaquille play, the more he thought he could be a star. He saw that Shaquille was eager to learn and was a hard worker. If Shaquille continued to work hard like that, he would be a star.

Possible details to include in answer:
- Madura reserved judgment on Shaquille until he saw him play.
- Madura was surprised by Shaquille’s ability.
- Although Shaquille was sort of clumsy and slow, he was huge.
- Madura noticed that Shaquille was eager to learn.
- Madura noticed that Shaquille worked very hard.
- Madura knew that if Shaquille worked hard enough, he could be a star.
- The more Madura saw of Shaquille, the more impressed he was with him.
- Other relevant text-based detail

Rubric:
2 points The response is accurate, complete, and fulfills all the requirements of the task. Necessary support and/or examples are included, and the information given is clearly text-based. Any extensions beyond the text are relevant to the task.
1 point The response includes some correct information, but may be too general or overly specific. Some of the support and/or examples may be incomplete or omitted.
0 points The response is inaccurate, confused, and/or irrelevant, or the student failed to respond to the task.

NOTE: If the item is left blank, apply Condition Code A.
What finally convinced Coach Madura that Shaquille could be a star? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Coach Madura knew Shaquille could be a star because although he was slow and clumsy, he was eager to learn and worked hard. Also, he was very big in size.
What finally convinced Coach Madura that Shaquille could be a star? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

What convinced Coach Madura that Shaquille was a star was that he saw the hard work he put into it when Shaquille played basketball.

This response includes some correct information. The student has provided a general explanation of what convinced Coach Madura that Shaquille could be a star (“he saw the hard work he put into it”), but the response needs additional text-based support to fully answer the question.
What finally convinced Coach Madura that Shaquille could be a star? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

What finally convinced Coach Madura that Shaquille could be a star is when he developed his leadership abilities.

This response is inaccurate. The student has provided some information from the passage (“when he developed his leadership abilities”), but the information does not support why Coach Madura thought Shaquille could be a basketball star.

Listening Score Point 0
What finally convinced Coach Madura that Shaquille could be a star? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Coach Madura saw how hard Shaquille worked and realized he would not give up. Coach noticed that Shaq got better along the way.
What finally convinced Coach Madura that Shaquille could be a star? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

his ability to adjust to american basketball
What finally convinced Coach Madura that Shaquille could be a star? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Coach Madura was convinced after he watched Shaquille play all school year long and all summer long.
What finally convinced Coach Madura that Shaquille could be a star? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Coach Madura was skeptical with Shaquille’s talent at first. He was very clumsy, but he noticed Shaquille was a hard worker and that he was very huge and tall to play the sport well.
What finally convinced Coach Madura that Shaquille could be a star? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

When Coach Madura saw Shaquille he was convinced that he could be a star.
What finally convinced Coach Madura that Shaquille could be a star? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Coach Madura was finally convinced that Shaquille could be a star after watching him after first coming to Cole. He saw Shaquille's great leadership abilities, and that he really was made for the basketball team.
What finally convinced Coach Madura that Shaquille could be a star? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

When Shaquille went to sign up for football the coach said no. He was convinced that Shaquille could be a star if he played basketball.
What finally convinced Coach Madura that Shaquille could be a star? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Because he's good at basketball.
What finally convinced Coach Madura that Shaquille could be a star? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Coach Madura knew that Shaquille would be a star. The reason why is because he was taller than all the other basketball players. He also tried out and the coach was pleased.
What finally convinced Coach Madura that Shaquille could be a star? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Coach Madura was convinced that Shaquille could be a star when he watched him play basketball and saw how fast he caught on. Also, Coach Madura knew Shaquille was very hard working and the coach said he had potential to be a star.
# 7th Grade Listening/Writing

## Practice Set Answer Key

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