

English II

Short Answer Connecting Selections Scoring Guide

March 2015

Read the next two selections and answer the questions that follow.

Helping Others to See

by Ram Dass

- 1 If you are at a point in your life where you are ready to grow, to push yourself a little, to open your heart to a deeper compassion, drop in at the Aravind Eye Hospital in Madurai, India. Offer yourself up as a volunteer—for as long as you are comfortable. Even a week would work, as it did for me. Then watch with awe as Dr. V, or Thulasi, his second-in-command, finds a place just for you.
- 2 In your “free” time, don’t miss 6 A.M. in the waiting room of the hospital when Dr. V walks about in the river of humanity. Hundreds of village folk stand in lines, waiting patiently for inexpensive, often free, outpatient eye care. In an adjoining wing, long lines of the blind and the near-blind, guided by friends and relatives, await the 10-minute miracle of surgery that will give them back their sight.
- 3 Or join Dr. V’s sister, a brilliant eye surgeon in her own right, as she, after six hours of surgery, leads a class of nurses in meditation and song.
- 4 After you have wandered around enough to begin to understand what this hospital is really about, ask Dr. V if you could visit one of his Sunday morning family sessions with his brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, in-laws and all the children. Each week a different child presents something: it could be one of the holy stories of India through which the Hindu people contemplate their values and incorporate them into their lives. Or a political issue, a world public health issue, an environmental issue, a family issue. After the presentation, all three generations hang out together and discuss the way they can put into practice the values brought forth in the presentation.
- 5 Dr. V is a hero for these people for alleviating preventable and curable blindness in the world. He is a winner of the highest honors, and “chief” of this huge, world-class eye hospital complex. A strangely arresting man—with his gnarled arthritic hands and feet, his gray rumpled suit, his seventy-odd years and a perfect “poster man” at the same time—a brilliant mirror of compassion to all. His work is not only a response to the great need he sees every day. It is motivated by his belief that “intelligence and capability are not enough to solve our problems. There must be a joy of doing something beautiful.”
- 6 In the waiting room scene at sunrise, Dr. V is simultaneously the fellow villager that he once was, and continues to be, and the extraordinary healer he has become. For a moment, his hand rests reassuringly on the arm of a frightened elderly woman. He explains a surgical procedure to a man. He nods to people and keeps the line moving. He cautions the children to be careful of others in their play. He is both village elder and hospital chief. He

is also keeping an eye on the staff, insisting on their impeccability in service—guiding his superbly honed institution of compassion with a glance, a word, a silent presence, a smile. As Gandhi once said, “My life is my message.” So Dr. V’s blend of being and doing is his message. He continually seeks to be an instrument of imbuing the physical world with Living Spirit.

- 7 “India will enter the 21st century with 13 million of her people needlessly blind,” says Dr. V. “If you allow the divine force to flow through you, you will accomplish things far greater than you imagined.”
- 8 Dr. V and his staff perform 92,000 cataract surgeries a year and nearly 850,000 outpatient treatments. That’s over 300 surgeries a day and 2,800 outpatients registered and seen each day. At the Seva Foundation, hundreds of our members help support special people like Dr. V and their noble work in underprivileged communities around the world. The Aravind Clinic has become a factory of caring for human beings. Their tall building of cement and steel and large plate-glass windows is a shining monument to Western technology. But it is also, like Dr. V himself, a blend of being and doing.
- 9 From my experiences with Dr. V and the Aravind family, I have deepened my understanding of a basic tenet of the Seva Foundation—that one need not forgo doing for being, or being for doing. In Madurai I found myself immersed in a demonstration of the successful integration of these two aspects of life—actions involving the best skills and technology balanced with caring hearts rooted in a sweet spiritual presence that is embracing of all fellow souls. It is a great teaching.

“Helping Others to See” by Ram Dass, from *STONE SOUP FOR THE WORLD: LIFE-CHANGING STORIES OF EVERYDAY HEROES*, edited by Marianne Larned. Copyright © 1998 and 2002 by Marianne Larned. Published by Three Rivers Press. Reprinted by permission.

The Aravind Eye-Care System

Dr. G. Venkataswamy, known as Dr. V, founded the Aravind Eye Hospital in 1976. What began as an 11-bed hospital is now the largest eye-care medical organization in the world, with 4,000 beds, seven hospitals, and 36 small satellite eye-care centers in remote regions.

Aravind's guiding philosophy is compassionate, self-sustaining care. One-third of the center's patients pay for their eye care. These funds pay for the other two-thirds, who receive their care at no cost.



Dr. V at His Desk

© 2011 Aravind Eye Care System



Patients of Aravind After Their Surgeries, Waiting Aboard the Bus That Will Take Them Home

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A Ball to Roll Around

by Robert Allman

This I Believe, *broadcast during the 1950s*

- 1 I lost my sight when I was 4 years old by falling off a boxcar in a freight yard in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and landing on my head. Now, I am 32. I can vaguely remember the brightness of sunshine and what color red is. It would be wonderful to see again. But a calamity can do strange things to people.
- 2 It occurred to me the other day that I might not have come to love life so, as I do, if I hadn't been blind. I believe in life now. I am not so sure that I would have believed in it so deeply, otherwise. I don't mean that I would prefer to go without my eyes. I simply mean that the loss of them made me more appreciate what I had left.
- 3 Life, I believe, asks a continuous series of adjustments to reality. The more readily a person is able to make these adjustments, the more meaningful his own private world becomes. The adjustment is never easy. I was bewildered and afraid, but I was lucky. My parents and my teachers saw something in me—oh, a potential to live you might call it—which I didn't see. And they made me want to fight it out with blindness.
- 4 The hardest lesson I had to learn was to believe in myself. That was basic. If I hadn't been able to do that, I would have collapsed and become a chair rocker on the front porch for the rest of my life. When I say believe in myself, I am not talking about simply the kind of self-confidence that helps me down an unfamiliar staircase alone. That is part of it, but I mean something bigger than that: an assurance that I am, despite imperfections, a real, positive person; that somewhere in the sweeping, intricate pattern of people, there is a special place where I can make myself fit. It took me years to discover and strengthen this assurance. It had to start with the most elementary things.
- 5 When I was a youngster, once a man gave me an indoor baseball. I thought he was mocking me, and I was hurt.
- 6 "I can't use this," I said.
- 7 "Take it with you," he urged me, "and roll it around."
- 8 The words stuck in my head: "Roll it around, roll it around." By rolling the ball, I could listen where it went. This gave me an idea—how to achieve a goal I had thought impossible: playing baseball. At Philadelphia's Overbrook School for the Blind, I invented a successful variation of baseball. We called it groundball.

- 9 All my life, I have set ahead of me a series of goals, and then tried to reach them one at a time. I had to learn my limitations. It was no good to try for something I knew at the start was wildly out of reach, because that only invited the bitterness of failure. I would fail sometimes anyway, but on the average, I made progress.
- 10 I believe I made progress more readily because of a pattern of life shaped by certain values. I find it easier to live with myself if I try to be honest. I find strength in the friendship and interdependence of people. I would be blind, indeed, without my sighted friends. And very humbly, I say that I have found purpose and comfort in a mortal's ambition toward godliness.
- 11 Perhaps a man without sight is blinded less by the importance of material things than other men are. All I know is that a belief in the higher existence of a nobility for men to strive for has been an inspiration that has helped me more than anything else to hold my life together.

"A Ball to Roll Around," written by Robert Allman, part of the This I Believe Essay Collection found at www.thisibelieve.org. Copyright © 2005–2013 by This I Believe, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Did You Know?



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Facts About Robert Allman (1918–1994):

- At the University of Pennsylvania, Allman was an intercollegiate wrestling champion and captain of the Quaker wrestling squad during his senior year.
- He was the recipient of the Class of 1915 Award, bestowed annually on a member of the senior class who most closely approaches the ideal University of Pennsylvania student-athlete.
- He was believed to be the first blind athlete ever to compete with sighted athletes in any American sport and was the first blind athlete to be awarded a varsity letter at the University of Pennsylvania.
- In 1940 Allman was presented the Most Courageous Athlete Award by the Philadelphia Sports Writers Association.
- He once said, "I have done nothing more than the average American boy. . . . Courage is nothing more than doing the best you can in the good old American Way."
- After college he became a successful lawyer in the Philadelphia area and worked until his death at age 75.

English II Short Answer Connecting Selections

How are Dr. V in “Helping Others to See” and the author of “A Ball to Roll Around” similar? Support your answer with evidence from **both** selections.

Score Point 0—Insufficient Response to the Question

Insufficient responses indicate a very limited reading performance.

These responses have one of the following problems.

- ❑ For one or both selections, the idea is not an answer to the question asked.
- ❑ The idea is incorrect because it is not based on one or both selections.
- ❑ For one or both selections, the idea is too general, vague, or unclear to determine whether it is reasonable.
- ❑ No idea is present from either selection. Sometimes the response contains only text evidence from one or both selections. At other times there appears to be an idea; however, this idea cannot be considered an answer to the question because it merely repeats verbatim, or “echoes,” the text evidence.

Dr. V and A ball to Roll Around
Author Are Alot Alike And have
The similarities of being real
and making It, doing The right thing
And living the right way.

Score Point 0

This response is insufficient because the student presents an idea that is too vague to determine whether it is reasonable. Phrases such as “being real,” “making it,” “doing the right thing,” and “living the right way” are not specific enough to constitute a valid answer to the question asked.

Both passages majorly talk about blindness.
Helping Others to See is about a man who
helps the blind in an attempt to make them
them see while A Ball to Roll Around focuses
about someone who lost their eye sight at the
age of four.

Score Point 0

This response is insufficient because the idea is not an answer to the question asked. The student notes a similarity between the selections (“Both passages majorly talk about blindness”); however, the question requires students to identify a similarity between Dr. V and the author. While the student’s statements about Dr. V and the author are true (Dr. V helps people who are blind; the author lost his eyesight at age four), these statements do not demonstrate how Dr. V and the author are similar.

They both had a goal in life.
Their both very determined to do
what they love. Even though
there both blind they don't let that
get in the way of there dreams.

Score Point 0

In this response the student provides several ideas that are vague as well as one idea that is incorrect. The ideas that Dr. V and the author of “A Ball to Roll Around” had a “goal in life” and were “very determined to do what they loved” are so vague that it is difficult to tell whether the student has read the selections. In addition, the student offers an idea that is based on a misreading of “Helping Others to See.” The student’s claim that Dr. V and the author are “both blind” is incorrect, since Dr. V is sighted throughout the selection. Because the response contains both vague and incorrect ideas, the student’s reading performance is considered very limited.

Dr. V in "helping others to see" and the author of "A ball to Roll Around" are similar. In "helping others to see" "Dr. V is a hero for these people for alleviating preventable and curable blindness in the world". As in "A ball to Roll" "I lost my sight at 4 years old by falling off a boxcar in a freight yard in Atlantic city."

Score Point 0

The student provides textual evidence from both selections but does not offer an idea. Stating that Dr. V and the author are similar only repeats the question; this statement does not constitute an idea. Responses that contain only text evidence indicate a very limited reading performance.

Score Point 1—Partially Sufficient Response to the Question

Partially sufficient responses indicate a basic reading performance.

These responses have one of the following characteristics.

- ❑ The idea is reasonable for both selections, but the response contains no text evidence (from one or both selections).
- ❑ The idea is reasonable for both selections, but the text evidence (from one or both selections) is flawed and does not adequately support the idea. Text evidence is considered inadequate when it is
 - only a general reference to the text,
 - too partial to support the idea,
 - weakly linked to the idea, or
 - used inappropriately because it wrongly manipulates the meaning of the text.
- ❑ For one or both selections, the idea needs more explanation or specificity even though it is supported with text evidence from both selections.
- ❑ For one or both selections, the idea represents only a literal reading of the text, with or without text evidence (from one or both selections).
- ❑ The response contains relevant textual evidence from both selections, but the student offers an idea that is reasonable for only one selection.
- ❑ The response contains an idea and relevant text evidence for both selections, but the idea for one selection contains an inaccuracy.

The authors are both similar because they are both a great inspiration to others. Dr. V is inspiring because he helps others in need. The second author is inspiring because he teaches you about self confidence.

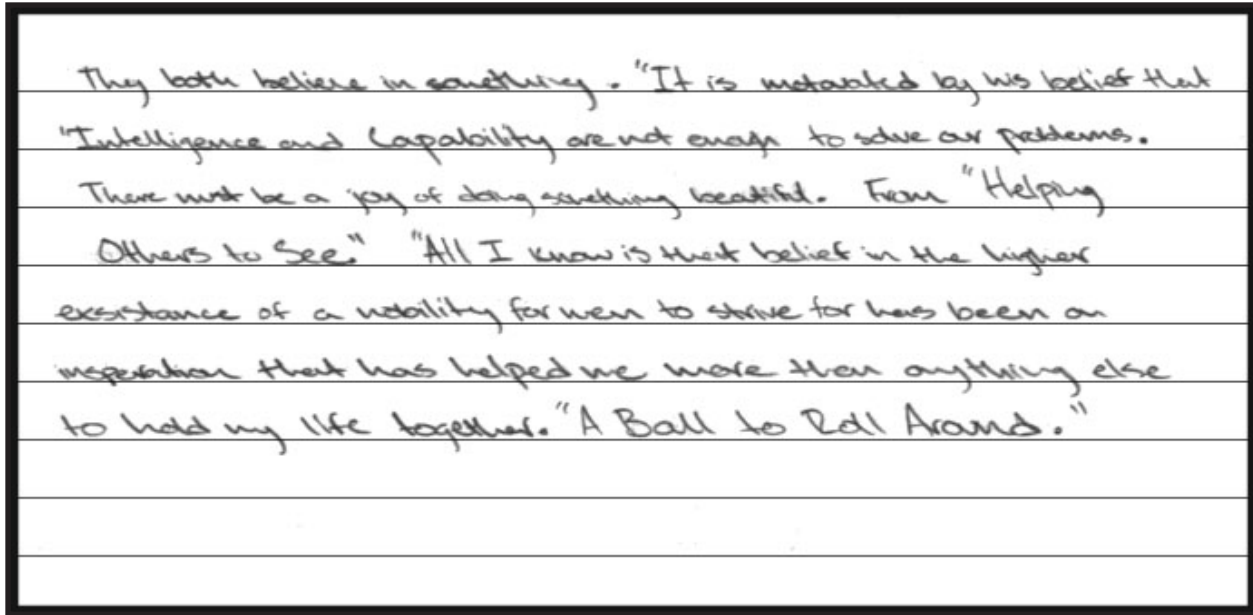
Score Point 1

The student presents the reasonable idea that Dr. V and the author are both a great inspiration to others. The student explains that Dr. V helps others in need and the author teaches readers about self-confidence. Although these ideas are reasonable based on the selections, the student does not provide any textual evidence. Responses that contain a reasonable idea but no textual evidence supporting that idea indicate a basic reading performance.

Both passages "Helping Others to See" and "A Ball to Roll Around" are similar because they are trying to move past the main conflict: blindness. In "Helping Others to See" Dr. V builds others up from blindness. "Dr. V is a..." In "A Ball to Roll Around" Robert Allman builds himself up from his blindness. "I simply mean ... what I had left,". Even though both Dr. V and Robert Allman are building up different people and have different methods of looking past blindness, they both chose to continue past this conflict.

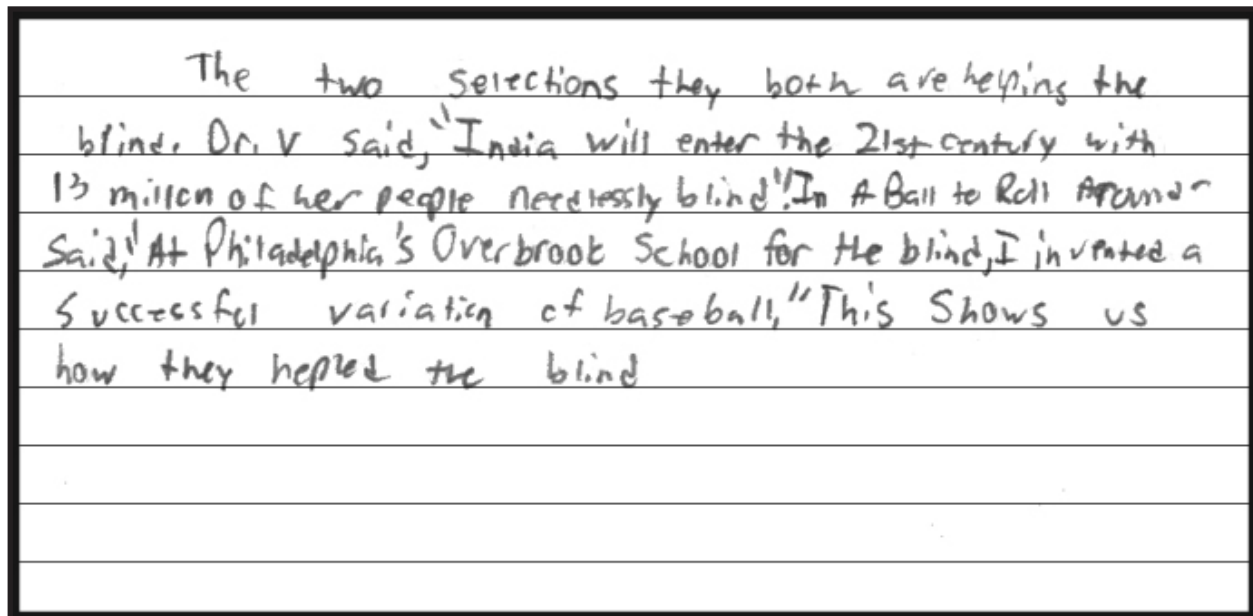
Score Point 1

The student offers the reasonable idea that Dr. V and the author are similar because they both are trying to move past the problem of blindness, Dr. V by building up people who are blind and the author building up himself. However, the textual evidence provided for each selection is flawed because it is too partial to adequately support the idea, since ellipses cannot be used in place of actual text. For this reason, the response represents only a basic reading performance.



Score Point 1

The student offers the general idea that Dr. V and the author are similar because they both believe in something. Although the student presents relevant textual evidence from both selections that shows what they believe in, the idea itself lacks the explanation or specificity needed for a sufficient response. For this reason, the student's reading performance is basic.



Score Point 1

The student offers the reasonable idea that Dr. V and the author are similar because they help people who are blind. The quotation from "A Ball to Roll Around" directly supports the idea that the author's invention of a successful variation of baseball gave blind students at the school an opportunity to play the game. However, the textual evidence provided for "Helping Others to See" is flawed because it is weakly linked to the idea. The quotation addresses the challenges India faces, but it does not directly support Dr. V's efforts to treat those who are blind. Because the idea is not supported with relevant textual evidence from both selections, this response represents a basic reading performance.

Score Point 2—Sufficient Response to the Question

Sufficient responses indicate a satisfactory reading performance.

These responses have the following characteristics.

- ❑ For both selections, the idea is reasonable and goes beyond a literal reading of the text. It is explained specifically enough to show that the student can make appropriate connections across the selections and draw valid conclusions.
- ❑ For both selections, the text evidence that is used to support the idea is accurate and relevant.
- ❑ For both selections, the idea and text evidence used to support it are clearly linked.
- ❑ For both selections, the combination of the idea and the text evidence demonstrates a good understanding of the text.

Dr. V and Robert Allman have helped the blind. Robert states he "invented a successful variation of baseball" (called "ground ball") that other blind students could play. In "Helping Others to See" Ram Dass says "Dr. V and his staff perform 92,000 cataract surgeries a year and nearly 850,000 out-patient treatments." Both, Dr. V and Allman, have been successful when it comes to helping the blind.

Score Point 2

The student presents the idea that Dr. V and Robert Allman are similar because they have been successful in helping people who are blind. The idea is specific and reasonable and demonstrates the student's ability to make appropriate connections across the selections. The student also provides an accurate and relevant direct quotation from each selection to support this idea. The combination of the idea and the text evidence makes this a sufficient response.

Connecting — 10

Dr. V in "Helping Others to See" and the author of "A Ball to Roll Around" are similar because they are hard workers. In paragraph 8: "Helping Others to See" when the narrator says, "Dr. V and his staff perform 92,000 surgeries a year..." shows just how much and hard he works. In paragraph 9 of "A Ball to Roll Around" the author says he set ahead of him a series of goals and then tried to reach them one at a time. This shows that he worked hard to make progress, even though he failed sometimes. Dr. V and Robert Allman are similar because of there hard work and never giving up.

Score Point 2

In this sufficient response the student presents the reasonable ideas that Dr. V and the author are hard workers and never give up. For "Helping Others to See," the student offers a direct quotation that accurately supports how hard Dr. V works every year. For "A Ball to Roll Around," the student offers a direct quotation from the first sentence in paragraph 9 as well as a paraphrase of the last sentence in paragraph 9 to show that Allman worked hard to make incremental progress toward achieving his goals, refusing to give up despite occasional failures. For both selections, the ideas and the text evidence used to support them are clearly linked and demonstrate that the student has a good understanding of the texts.

The two selection are similar in the way that they both talk about people who have fulfilled their goals. In "Helping others See" Dr. V always wanted to help others and he has by doing "92,000 cataract surgeries a year and nearly 850,000 outpatient treatments." In the selection "A Ball to Roll Around" Robert Allman was the "first blind athlete to compete with sighted athletes". He won the "Most Courageous Athlete Award", and became a "successful lawyer in the Philadelphia area." It dose not matter if some one is blind or regular when you have a dream their is nothing that can hold you back.

Score Point 2

The student offers the reasonable idea that Dr. V and the author are similar because they fulfilled their goals—Dr. V through his extraordinary efforts to help those suffering from vision problems and the author through his personal achievements despite his own blindness. This idea shows that the student can make appropriate connections across the selections. The student offers relevant and clearly linked direct quotations to show how both men realized their dreams regardless of the obstacles they faced. This response represents a satisfactory reading performance.

Dr. V and Robert Allman are similar by their outlook on life. In "Helping others to See" Dr. V says "If you allow the divine force to flow through you, you will accomplish things far greater than you imagineel." showing what an optimistic person he is. In "A Ball to Roll Around" Robert Allman says "All I know is that a belief in the higher existence of a nobility for men to strive for has been an inspiration that has helped me more than anything else to hold my life together." showing that any problem can be overcome by staying positive.

Score Point 2

In this sufficient response the student presents the reasonable idea that Dr. V and Robert Allman are similar because they have a positive outlook on life. The student uses a direct quotation from each selection to support the idea that both men are optimistic. The combination of the idea and textual evidence demonstrates a good understanding of the selections.

Score Point 3—Exemplary Response to the Question

Exemplary responses indicate an accomplished reading performance.

These responses have the following characteristics.

- ❑ For both selections, the idea is perceptive and reflects an awareness of the complexities of the text. The student is able to develop a coherent explanation of the idea by making discerning connections across both selections.
- ❑ For both selections, the text evidence that is used to support the idea is specific and well chosen. Overall, the evidence strongly supports the validity of the idea.
- ❑ For both selections, the combination of the idea and the text evidence demonstrates a deep understanding of the text.

Robert Allman and Dr. Venkataswamy share the same humble approach towards living their lives. They ignore the material aspects of the world because of "a belief in the higher existence of a nobility for men to strive for" (Allman 11). This nobility is Allman's inspiration in life but relates to Dr. V's benevolence. Instead of using his medical ability to profit and purchase lavish commodities, Dr. V "and his staff perform 92,000 cataract surgeries a year and nearly 850,000 outpatient treatments" with two-thirds of his patients charged at no cost (Pass 8). These men resist the temptations of a material lifestyle to pursue nobler causes.

Score Point 3

The student makes discerning connections across the selections by presenting the perceptive idea that Dr. V and the author are similar in that they share a humble approach to life. The student strengthens this idea by explaining how Allman's inspiration and the author's benevolence allow them to resist the temptations of a material lifestyle and "pursue nobler causes." A well-chosen direct quotation from each selection strongly supports the validity of the idea. The combination of idea, analysis, and textual evidence demonstrates the student's deep understanding of the selections.

Dr. V and Robert Allman are similar in their refusal to allow blindness to destroy people's lives. Dr. V uses his skills as a medical professional to allow those who would go blind to keep their sight. Dr. V gives care to "hundreds of village folk" for little to no cost. Robert Allman refused to allow his own blindness to impact him. Allman refused to relinquish his belief that he was "a real, positive person" and that there was a "special place" where he could "make[himself] fit." These two remarkable men prevented lack of sight from hindering people, allowing them instead to move past it.

Score Point 3

The student demonstrates an accomplished reading performance by developing the perceptive idea that Dr. V and the author are similar because of their refusal to allow blindness to destroy people's lives. The student provides an analysis that shows how this refusal unfolds in different ways. To support this analysis, the student notes how "Dr. V gives care to 'hundreds of village folk' for little to no cost," while the author maintains the "belief that he was 'a real, positive person' and that there was a 'special place' where he could 'make [himself] fit.'" This combination of well-chosen direct quotations and paraphrased text strongly supports the validity of the idea. Overall, this student demonstrates a deep understanding of the texts.

Both Dr. V in "Helping Others to See" and the author, Robert Allman, of "A Ball to Roll Around" are similar because they have both found joy and purpose in life amidst hardship. Dr. V and Allman used blindness to help them see their own potential. Dr. V is the chief of an eye hospital in India whose work helping others has helped him realize and find the "joy of doing something beautiful" and have a "blend of being and doing [be] his message" and purpose in life. Allman had been blind since childhood, but admits that he is "not so sure that he would have believed in [life] so deeply, otherwise". Both Dr. V and Allman found an obstacle present in others, or even themselves, and overcame it. This perseverance illustrates both peoples' incredible strength and courage and the fulfillment they have gained through it.

Score Point 3

In this exemplary response the student presents the idea that Dr. V and the author are similar because they have found joy and purpose in life amid hardship. The student shows an ability to make discerning connections across the selections by comparing how Dr. V and the author persevere and find fulfillment despite the obstacle of blindness. The textual evidence the student provides strongly supports the validity of the analysis.

Dr. V and Robert Allman are similar because they both are spiritually inspired. In "Helping others to See", "As Gandhi once said, 'My life is my message'... so Dr. V's blend of being and doing is his message. He continually seeks to be an instrument of imbuing the physical world with living spirit." Robert Allman says "All I know is that a belief in the higher existence of a nobility... has been an inspiration that has helped me..." Both Dr. V and Robert Allman try to live according to their spiritual life rather than material things, and that gives their life meaning.

Score Point 3

The student presents the perceptive idea that Dr. V and the author are similar because they are both spiritually inspired. The direct quotations the student uses are particularly well chosen, as they support the idea that both men are acutely aware of the importance of a higher spiritual power in their lives. The combination of the idea and textual evidence demonstrates that the student has an awareness of the complexities of the texts, making this response exemplary.