



# ***New York State Testing Program***

**English**

**Language Arts Test**

**Book 1**

Grade

**3**

**April 26–28, 2010**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_**

## TIPS FOR TAKING THE TEST

Here are some suggestions to help you do your best:

- Be sure to read carefully all the directions in the test book.
- Plan your time.
- Read each question carefully and think about the answer before choosing or writing your response.

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**Reading**

***D*irections**

In this part of the test, you are going to do some reading. Then you will answer questions about what you have read.

***Go On***

# Directions

Read this story. Then answer questions 1 through 5.

## The Tent

by Valeri Gorbachev



One hot summer day, Turtle found a tent in the sand. “Cool!” he said. “Now I can escape from the hot sun,” and he crawled inside.

“Hey, Mouse! Come and see the tent I found,” said Turtle. “It is a great place to escape from the hot sun!”

“Thank you,” said Mouse, and he crawled into the tent.

“Hey, Frog!” called Turtle and Mouse. “Come and see our tent. It is nice and shady in here.”

“Thanks,” said Frog as he crawled inside.

“Hey, Rabbit!” they called. “Come into our tent and cool off!”

“Thank you,” said Rabbit, crawling inside.

“Hello, Elephant!” said Turtle, Mouse, Frog, and Rabbit. “We would ask you to join us inside our tent, but there is no more room. We are very sorry.”

“I am the one who is sorry,” said Elephant. “You see, this is not a tent. It is my hat.”

“Oh,” said Turtle. “We will look for shade somewhere else.”

“That’s OK, friends,” said Elephant. “We can share it!”

**Go On**

**1** What is this story **mostly** about?

- A** finding new friends
- B** playing with friends
- C** hiding from friends
- D** sharing with friends

**2** What is Turtle trying to escape from?

- A** a tent
- B** the heat
- C** the sand
- D** an elephant

**3** What is the **main** reason Turtle uses the hat as a tent?

- A** The hat blocks the sun.
- B** He finds the hat outside.
- C** He can hide under the hat.
- D** The hat is sitting on sand.

**4** Which word **best** describes Elephant?

- A** curious
- B** friendly
- C** nervous
- D** upset

**5** Which event from the story could **not** really happen?

- A** A rabbit finds shade.
- B** A frog goes into a tent.
- C** A mouse thanks a turtle.
- D** A turtle walks on sand.

**STOP**

# Directions

Read this article. Then answer questions 6 through 10.

## Hot Job

by Audra Esposito

Firefighter Regina Wilson works in Brooklyn, New York. A reporter is asking Regina questions about how she does her job.



**Reporter:** How long have you been a firefighter?

**Regina Wilson:** Eight years.

**Reporter:** How did you get started?

**Wilson:** First, I had to take a lot of tests. Then, I went to firefighter school for 13 weeks. I learned how to put out fires and how to use equipment, such as the ax and the fire hose. I also had to work out every day!

**Reporter:** How do you stay safe on the job?

**Wilson:** I wear special clothing called *bunker gear*. It helps keep me protected (safe) from fire. I also carry an oxygen tank and a mask. They help me to breathe in a smoke-filled building.

**Reporter:** Are there any new tools that firefighters use?

**Wilson:** We have a special camera that can see in the dark. It can detect (find) heat. That way, we can tell where a fire is located.

**Reporter:** Do you save pets?

**Wilson:** I recently helped save some kittens. They were hiding under the beds. Pets usually hide during a fire because they are scared.

**Go On**

**Reporter:** Do you ever get afraid?

**Wilson:** There is no time to be afraid. I think about what I have to do to put out the fire safely.

**Reporter:** What do you like best about being a firefighter?

**Wilson:** Helping people!

- 6** What is this article **mostly** about?
- A** what a firefighter does
  - B** how a firefighter is trained
  - C** what a firefighter wears
  - D** how a firefighter helps animals

- 7** What did Regina Wilson do **first** to become a firefighter?
- A** She saved some kittens.
  - B** She used fire equipment.
  - C** She learned to put out fires.
  - D** She took a lot of tests.

- 8** Why does Regina Wilson say she does **not** get afraid?
- A** She has an oxygen tank.
  - B** She enjoys her job too much.
  - C** She knows how to fight fires.
  - D** She is too busy putting out fires.

- 9** What does Regina Wilson like **most** about being a firefighter?
- A** working out
  - B** saving animals
  - C** helping people
  - D** using equipment

- 10** Why did the author **most likely** write this article?
- A** to teach readers how to prevent fires
  - B** to make readers want to be firefighters
  - C** to give readers information about firefighters
  - D** to show readers how to use fire equipment

**STOP**

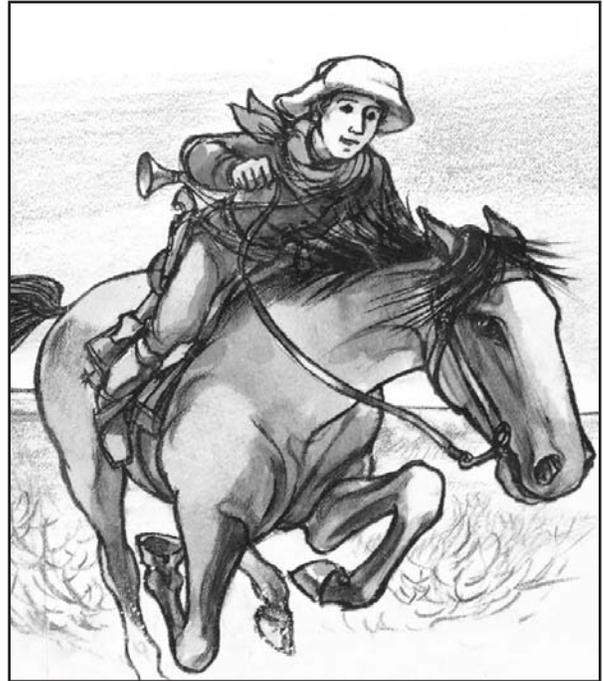
# *Directions*

Read this passage. Then answer questions 11 through 15.

## Buffalo Bill and the Pony Express

by Eleanor Coerr

illustrated by Dan Bolognese



The Pony Express was how mail was delivered a long time ago. Buffalo Bill decided he wanted to ride for the Pony Express when he was 15.

Bill went in to see Mr. Majors. Bill stood tall and said, “I want to join the Pony Express.”

Mr. Majors laughed, “A big wind could blow you away!” he said. “You are too young.”

“Gee whiz!” said Bill. “I’m sixteen.”

“Don’t try to fool me!” said Mr. Majors. “If you are sixteen, then I’m a lizard.”

“I guess I’m closer to fifteen,” said Bill.

“Can you ride? Follow trails? Swim? Shoot?” asked Mr. Majors.

“Yes, sir,” said Bill. “I roped cattle when I was nine, and I can ride like the wind.”

**Go On**

“It will be no picnic,” said Mr. Majors. “You must ride seventy or more miles each day. There may be trouble, too.”

“I’m not afraid,” Bill said.

“I like your spunk, son,” said Mr. Majors, “but you must promise not to lie, not to swear, and not to fight. And you must deliver the mail on time, no matter what.”

spunk = bravery

“I promise,” said Bill.

Mr. Majors showed Bill a map. “There’s St. Joseph, and there’s Sacramento, California. Eighty riders and four hundred ponies carry the mail between these cities,” said Mr. Majors.

“That’s a long way!” said Bill.

“Yup,” said Mr. Majors. “It’s about two thousand miles. The riders travel all day and night to carry the mail in ten days. They are twice as fast as stagecoaches.”

Mr. Majors marked Red Buttes [BEWTZ]. “That is your home station,” he said. “Your job is to take the mail from Red Buttes to Three Crossings.”

“More than seventy-five miles on one pony?” asked Bill.

“Of course not!” said Mr. Majors. “Along the way there are stations with food, shelter, and fresh ponies. After two days’ rest, you ride back with more letters.”

Bill put on his red flannel shirt, a red neckerchief, blue trousers, riding boots, and a ten-dollar hat to keep off the rain. A shiny horn hung from his shoulder.

He was a real Pony Express rider now!

**Go On**

**11** In the passage, Mr. Majors tells Bill that the job will be “no picnic.” What does Mr. Majors mean by this?

- A** He is saying that riders must leave friends behind.
- B** He is suggesting that Bill bring his own food.
- C** He is warning Bill that the job will be difficult.
- D** He is explaining that riding makes people hungry.

**12** What happens **right after** Bill promises to deliver the mail on time?

- A** Mr. Majors shows Bill a map.
- B** Bill rides away on a fresh pony.
- C** Bill puts on his red flannel shirt.
- D** Mr. Majors says Bill is too young.

**13** Which statement **best** describes Bill in this passage?

- A** He is funny.
- B** He is nine years old.
- C** He is a hard worker.
- D** He is forgetful.

***Go On***

**14** What will **most likely** happen on Bill's first ride?

- A** He will ride fast.
- B** He will be late with the mail.
- C** He will need only one pony.
- D** He will get scared.

**15** Why did the author **most likely** write this passage?

- A** to explain how to dress correctly
- B** to show why maps are useful
- C** to give information about ponies
- D** to tell about an interesting person

**STOP**

# *D*irections

Read this article. Then answer questions 16 through 21.

## The Snowman's Gift

*by Marcia Wuest*

*illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka*



When a snowman melts, it leaves us a gift that lasts all year. To find out what this gift is, let's take a closer look at what happens to the snowman.

It has to be warm outside for a snowman to melt. As the sun shines, it makes heat. We can't see heat, but we know it's there because we feel the warmth on our hands and faces.

The snowman gets smaller and smaller as it melts, until we can't see it at all. Where did it go?

As the snowman melts, it turns into water. If you look carefully at snow, you'll see that it's actually small pieces of ice (called crystals) that are stuck together. When they get warm, the crystals change from ice into water.

But where does the water from the snowman go? The ground acts like a sponge and soaks up the water. As the water seeps into the ground, it finds lots of things that are thirsty. The water might find grass roots, flower bulbs, or tree roots.

***Go On***

So that's the snowman's year-round gift—it's water!

Without water, we wouldn't have colorful flowers to look at in the spring. Without water, we wouldn't have soft, green grass to run barefoot on in the summer. Without water, we wouldn't have strong, tall trees to climb in the fall. Water helps all of these things grow. The snowman's gift lasts all year.

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- 16** What causes a snowman to begin to melt?
- A** The air becomes warm.
  - B** The water turns into ice.
  - C** The ground soaks up water.
  - D** The ice crystals stick together.
- 17** In the article, what happens when ice crystals get warm?
- A** They make heat.
  - B** They soak up snow.
  - C** They turn into water.
  - D** They stick together.
- 18** According to the article, what does water find in the ground?
- A** tree roots
  - B** green grass
  - C** ice crystals
  - D** colorful flowers

***Go On***

**19** Which detail is **most** important to the title “The Snowman’s Gift”?

- A** When the sun shines, it makes heat.
- B** The water helps many different things grow.
- C** As the snowman melts, it gets smaller.
- D** The ground soaks up water like a sponge.

**20** According to the article, which sentence about nature is **true**?

- A** Snow is not pieces of ice stuck together.
- B** Melting snow helps give water to plants.
- C** The sun does not make heat in the winter.
- D** Flowers are only colorful in the spring.

**21** The title of the article is “The Snowman’s Gift.” What is the snowman’s “gift”? How does the snowman give this gift? Use details from the article in your answer.

What is the snowman’s gift? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How does the snowman give this gift? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**STOP**



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Place Student Label Here



**Grade 3**  
**English Language Arts Test**  
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