



New York State Testing Program

English

Language Arts

Listening Selection

Grade **4**

January 9–13, 2006

This listening selection is to be used in administering Book 2 of the English Language Arts Test. The entire selection is to be read aloud twice to the students. For complete directions, please follow the instructions in the *Teacher's Directions*.

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Listening Selection***Why the Rooster Crows at Dawn***

by Tulle Miller

Many years ago, roosters did not crow in the morning. When the sun came up, all was quiet and still. Slowly the animals would wake up. One dog would bark. Then another would bark, too. A cat would meow. The cows would moo. Horses would neigh. Then everyone would wake up.

You might know that chickens are proud. They are proud of their fine feathers. They are proud of their fine families and chicks. Hens cluck with pride over their eggs. Roosters have always thought they were the kings of the farm. They hold their heads high and strut proudly about the farm.

One day, the rooster strutted into the pasture where the cows were grazing. The rooster roamed the grass, stepping wherever he pleased. He did not worry about the great big cows with their great big hoofs. Brownie, the kindest of all the cows, worried that the rooster would get hurt.

“Go away, little one,” said Brownie. She showed the rooster her hoof. Brownie’s hoof was bigger than the rooster’s head.

The rooster only laughed. “You might be big,” he said. “But I am king.”

The rooster left. The cows laughed at the little bird who thought he was king. They decided to play a joke on the rooster.

The next day, the rooster strutted into the grassy pasture again. The cows were ready.

“I wonder that you have time to visit us, great king,” said Brownie.

“I have all the time in the world,” said the rooster grandly.

“That is a surprise. You have so much work. I wonder that you can get it all done,” said the cow.

Go On

The rooster was surprised. He did not know he had so much work to do. Up until now, he had spent all his time roaming the farm. He asked the cow what she meant.

“Well, as the king, it is your job to know everything that happens on the farm,” said Brownie. “That means you are the first to wake up. Then you must be the last to sleep.”

The rooster left the pasture. He thought carefully about what the cow had said. All these years he had left his duties undone! He decided that things would change at the farm. He was the king! He had work to do! He would wake up with the dawn and begin his royal work.

The next morning, the rooster began crowing as soon as he saw the sun. “I’m awake! I’m awake! No fear, the king is awake!”

It made the cows laugh to hear the rooster crow each morning. They let him believe that he was the best and most hard-working king there ever was. To this day, the rooster crows every morning to show that he is doing his duty.

STOP



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