



New York State Testing Program

**English
Language Arts
Book 1**

Grade

7

January 17–20, 2006

Name _____

47931

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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Book 1

Reading

Directions

In this part of the test, you will do some reading and answer questions about what you have read. For the multiple-choice questions, you will mark your answers on the answer sheet. For questions 17 and 23, you will write your answers directly in the test book.

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Book 1

Page 1

Directions

Read this fable. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

The North Wind and the Sun



A dispute arose between the North Wind and the Sun, each claiming to be stronger than the other. At last, they agreed to try their powers upon a traveler, to see which could soonest strip him of his cloak. The North Wind had the first try. Gathering up all his force for the attack, the North Wind came whirling furiously down upon the man and caught up his cloak as though he would wrest it from him by one single effort. The harder the North Wind blew, though, the more closely the man wrapped the cloak around himself.

Then came the turn of the Sun. At first, he beamed gently upon the traveler, who soon unclasped his cloak and walked on with it hanging loosely about his shoulders. Then the Sun shone forth in his full strength, and the man, before he had gone many steps, was glad to throw his cloak right off and complete his journey more lightly clad.



- 1** In the fable, the North Wind tries to win the argument by
- A** persuading the traveler to remove his cloak
 - B** frightening the traveler into removing his cloak
 - C** getting the cloak from the traveler by tricking him
 - D** getting the cloak from the traveler by overpowering him

- 2** This fable is told from the point of view of
- F** the Sun
 - G** the North Wind
 - H** the narrator
 - J** the traveler

- 3** Why was the Sun more successful than the North Wind in winning the dispute?
- A** The Sun was physically stronger.
 - B** The Sun was closer to the traveler.
 - C** The Sun used a more clever strategy.
 - D** The Sun used all his strength in one burst.

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Book 1

Page 3

Directions

Read this article about a well-known poet. Then answer questions 4 through 10.

The Nature of an Artist

by Emanuel di Pasquale

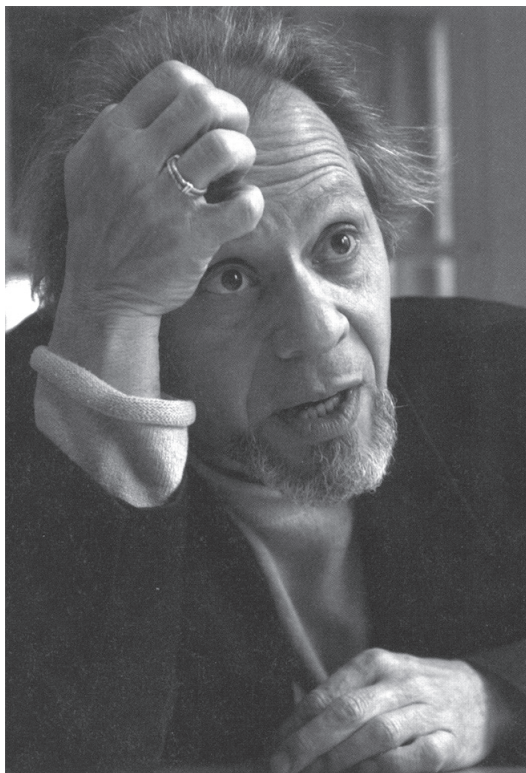
People have always wondered about the nature of an artist. How does a musician, a painter, a poet come to be? Being a poet myself, let me try to answer the question of what makes a poem—as best as I can remember. Now, *remember* is a good word here, because I believe I was shaped into a poet in my childhood.

In Sicily, I attended elementary school, and after I completed fifth grade, I went to work at the local bakery, where my brother was chief baker. Although he was only twenty years old, he had become the head of my family, as my father had died a few years earlier. My brother, too, had been forced to quit school to help care for me, my mother, and my two sisters. My brother was a fine baker, but he was also an intellectual, a great reader, whose main interests were politics and philosophy. I learned about books and thinking from him.

I also had an aunt who loved heroic adventure stories. Aunt Giovanna's favorite book was *The Legend of King Arthur*. She read often and aloud from this book of hers, and I loved listening to her voice and watching her read: her hand gestures and her facial expressions of love, anger, joy.

So I had two people in my family who loved books—and who loved to talk about books and read to me from books. Books clicked for me especially, perhaps because I was a shy child. I also loved to listen to traveling minstrels as they moved across Sicily, my birth island, singing stories of ancient warriors, of Saracens and Normans. I loved the drama and the adventures—the brave warriors rescuing women and children and the poor peasant people.

Finally, there was another element to my beginnings as one who would develop a poetical way of seeing things: I paid attention to detail, little things that most of my friends didn't see



minstrels = musical entertainers

or didn't have time to see. I saw that swallows had white bellies, that small lizards I occasionally caught in the cold mornings had no teeth, that their green skin resembled the green of leaves. I noticed that the bark of ancient carob trees cracked and made designs I could see in the flying buttresses of church buildings. I began to see connections between nature and man: the true reason for poetry.

flying buttresses = structures built against a wall for reinforcement

In the simplest language, then, using the clearest, most musical words, to this day, by using what are called similes and metaphors, I try to make this connection. And it gives me joy.

Here are two poems by Emanuel di Pasquale.

XIII.

I played with my children
last night, wheeling under the stars.
The last one to get dizzy and fall
down won. Guess?

XIV.

Walking along the north star
in the dark. Geese gossip.
Ice amoebas across causeway.
Deer in vacant lot.
The moon, only half a person,
has fallen down on his back.

4 Which phrase **best** describes the author's childhood?

- F** rich in experiences
- G** filled with frustration
- H** carefree and relaxed
- J** confused and unhappy

5 What did the author's family give him that was **most** important to his growth as a poet?

- A** a love of books
- B** a sense of history
- C** a model of hard work and dedication
- D** a knowledge of politics and philosophy

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6 Aunt Giovanna and the traveling minstrels **mainly** helped the author learn to

- F** write plays
- G** identify with heroes
- H** overcome his shyness
- J** appreciate the art of storytelling

7 Read this sentence from the article.

She read often and aloud from this book of hers, and I loved listening to her voice and watching her read: her hand gestures and her facial expressions of love, anger, joy.

The author uses this sentence to help create an image of his aunt. Which pair of words **best** describes that image?

- A** cautious and shy
- B** lively and dramatic
- C** serious and steady
- D** pleasant and sweet

8 Why does the author tell his readers about swallows and lizards?

- F** to demonstrate his attention to detail
- G** to explain his interest in small animals
- H** to compare and contrast their appearance
- J** to give examples of good subjects for poems

9 Based on information about di Pasquale in the last two paragraphs of the article, which of these pieces of writing would he **most likely** write?

- A** a description of a frightening experience
- B** a comparison of birds in flight to airplanes
- C** an entertaining review of current books
- D** an instruction guide on how to run a bakery

10 In “The Nature of an Artist,” di Pasquale discusses “the true reason for poetry.”

Read this sentence from the article.

I noticed that the bark of ancient carob trees cracked and made designs I could see in the flying buttresses of church buildings.

Which statement **best** explains how this sentence is an example of “the true reason for poetry”?

- F** It implies excitement.
- G** It connects man and nature.
- H** It is written in simple language.
- J** It discusses architecture and history.

Directions

Read this article about an astronaut. Then answer questions 11 through 17.

Reaching for the Stars . . . and Beyond

by Wendi Patrick

Can you imagine what it would be like to spend two months of your life in space? That's what Dr. Franklin Chang-Díaz has done, though not all at once! He is the only Latin American to have been in space, and he's done so much more than any other U.S. astronaut. Dr. Chang-Díaz has been on 7 space shuttle missions and has logged 1,600 hours in space (and counting). So, what made him reach for the stars in the first place?

Franklin Chang-Díaz was born in Costa Rica in 1950. His family moved to Venezuela soon after, where he had an experience that changed his life forever. When Franklin was 6 years old, he learned that Russia had launched the first satellite, *Sputnik 1*, into orbit. The idea of space travel captured the boy's imagination. Franklin climbed into a mango tree and watched the sky until dawn, dreaming of what it would be like to fly among the stars.

After his all-night vigil in the mango tree, Franklin devoted himself to one goal: becoming an astronaut. He wrote to rocket scientist Werner von Braun and asked him for advice. The scientist wrote back, suggesting that Franklin study math and science—in the United States.

Even though studying in the United States seemed like an impossible dream, Franklin had decided he would do whatever it took to travel into space. After graduating from high school in Costa Rica, Franklin worked hard to save money so that he could go to the United States to pursue his dreams. With only \$50 in his pocket, Franklin moved to Connecticut. Even though he did not speak English and despite the fact he had already graduated from high school, he enrolled in high school in Connecticut. By the end of the school year, he had earned a college scholarship to the University of Connecticut. His education had only just begun. Eight years later, Franklin Chang-Díaz earned his Ph.D. in physics.

Chang-Díaz began realizing his dream of space travel in 1981. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) had 19 astronaut jobs available. Thousands of scientists applied for the jobs, and Chang-Díaz was one of the few chosen. After 5 years of training, he rocketed into space aboard the space shuttle *Columbia*, from which he studied Halley's Comet and conducted several scientific experiments.

In orbit around Earth, the sun rises and sets every 45 minutes! Chang-Díaz says that it is easy for astronauts to get confused by the days frequently changing to nights. He explains that people on Earth live by the sun rising and setting. "When the sun rises, you get up. When it sets, you go to bed, more or less. It can get weird when the sun rises and sets so often."

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Still, Chang-Díaz thinks the most interesting part of being in space is being weightless. “At first you feel like you’re hanging upside down . . . you can walk on the ceiling or floor or walls, and on the shuttle there is nothing on them to tell you which is which. You forget where the ceiling is.”

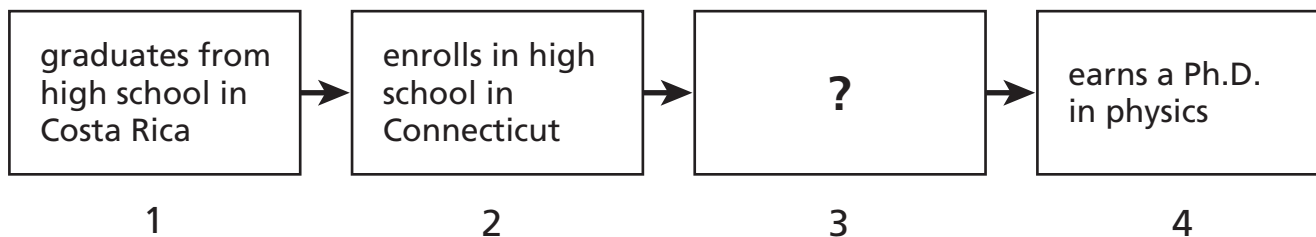
Even after 7 missions, Chang-Díaz says he is still thrilled by space exploration. He dreams about the day when people will be able to travel long distances to other planets and stars. He is currently researching plasma rocket engines, which could someday cut travel time to Mars from 10 months to 90 days.

And Chang-Díaz doesn’t stop there. He researches new treatments for tropical diseases, and the connections between the rain forest and space. What’s next for this fearless explorer? The sky’s the limit!



A United States space shuttle

- 11** Look at the graphic organizer below.



Which event belongs in the third box?

- A** earns a scholarship
- B** applies to NASA for a job
- C** writes to a rocket scientist for advice
- D** learns that Russia has launched a satellite

- 12** According to information in the article, Dr. Chang-Díaz could **best** be described as

- F** goal-oriented
- G** easily amused
- H** easily influenced
- J** self-centered

- 13** Which saying **best** describes Dr. Chang-Díaz's attitude as it is revealed in the last two paragraphs of the article?

- A** Finding a good teacher is an important part of achieving success.
- B** Accomplishments mean more when you are the first to achieve them.
- C** No matter how much you know there is always something else to learn.
- D** Learn from the mistakes of the past so they are not repeated in the future.

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14 For Dr. Chang-Díaz, life in space is **best** described as

- F** carefree
- G** exciting
- H** lonesome
- J** worrisome

15 According to information in the article, traveling in space may be easier in the future. Choose the statement that **best** supports this conclusion.

- A** Satellites have been launched into orbit.
- B** Scientists have evaluated Halley’s Comet.
- C** Research on plasma rocket engines is being conducted.
- D** Scientific experiments are being conducted aboard space shuttles.

16 The author of this article states that “the sky’s the limit” for Dr. Chang-Díaz. What does she mean by this statement?

- F** The possibilities of Dr. Chang-Díaz’s accomplishments are endless.
- G** Dr. Chang-Díaz has faced enormous responsibilities as an astronaut.
- H** The abilities of Dr. Chang-Díaz are limited to what can be done in the space program.
- J** There are restrictions on the number of hours that Dr. Chang-Díaz can spend in space.

17

Dr. Chang-Díaz made several decisions that demonstrated his devotion to “reaching for the stars.” Choose a decision you think **best** demonstrates his devotion. Support your choice using details from the article.

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Directions

Read this poem. Then answer questions 18 through 23.

Most Valuable Player

by Sarah Van Arsdale

If I had a trophy
I'd put it on the middle shelf
of my bookcase. I'd dust
it every day
and polish it once a week.

It would have a statue of a woman
holding a bat, her golden arm
cocked up a little
waiting for the pitch.
When my friends came over
I'd stand next to the bookcase casual-like
till they said, "Is that a trophy?"
I'd read the inscription every morning.
I'd ask someone to take my picture
with my trophy.

My trophy would say
"Softball Player" on the bottom,
and everyone would know
that in summer I tie on my cleats
run onto the field,
slapping high fives.
They'd know I take third base,
put my glove to the dry dirt,
scatter dust in the air.
They'd hear the fans shout,

"Hey, some catch!"
when that white ball comes slamming
into my glove,
and, "Watch out, she'll steal home,"
as my cleats dig and dig.
They'd feel the weight of the little statue
and think, "I bet she's going out
with her team tonight,"
"I bet she could teach me how to throw,"
"I bet she plays softball,"
and I do,

I do.



18 Which word **best** describes the reaction the speaker believes her friends will have toward her trophy?

- F** admiration
- G** desire
- H** surprise
- J** sympathy

19 Which statement shows that the speaker is only daydreaming about having a trophy?

- A** The speaker describes how she plays softball.
- B** The speaker describes what her trophy looks like.
- C** The words “I’d” and “would” are repeated throughout the poem.
- D** The words “trophy” and “softball” are repeated throughout the poem.

20 Which lines from the poem **best** show that the speaker understands the game of softball?

- F** “I’d ask someone to take my picture with my trophy.”
- G** “My trophy would say ‘Softball Player’ on the bottom,”
- H** “They’d know I take third base, put my glove to the dry dirt, scatter dust in the air.”
- J** “They’d feel the weight of the little statue and think, ‘I bet she’s going out with her team tonight,’”

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21 Which phrase **best** describes what the trophy represents for the speaker in this poem?

- A** proving her determination to win
- B** being recognized as a softball player
- C** becoming the envy of other softball players
- D** remembering the successes of past games

22 Read these lines from the poem.

**and everyone would know
that in summer I tie on my cleats
run onto the field,
slapping high fives.**

What is the effect of using the word “slapping” in this line?

- F** It exaggerates the feeling of competition at a softball game.
- G** It imitates the sound of players greeting each other at the game.
- H** It compares the experiences of the speaker with those of other players.
- J** It describes what happened at softball games that took place in the past.

23

Read these lines from the poem:

**“Hey, some catch!”
when that white ball comes slamming
into my glove,
and, “Watch out, she’ll steal home,”
as my cleats dig and dig.**

Name two things the reader learns about the speaker from these lines.

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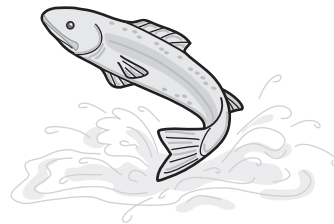


Directions

Here is an excerpt from *My Name Is America: The Journal of Wong Ming-Chung* by Laurence Yep. The book is in the form of a journal and is about a boy who leaves China to come to “the Golden Mountain” (the United States) in the mid-1800s. At this point in the story, the boy has sailed to San Francisco to join his uncle and is now traveling farther north to Gold Rush country. Read the excerpt. Then answer questions 24 through 28.

Gold Rush Country

by Laurence Yep



I wound up drifting over to the side of the boat to look at the water. Suddenly, a fish leapt out of the water. Its sides shone in the sun so it looked like a silver arrow. It was so lovely it would be a shame to eat it.

When the fish splashed back into the water, I felt a nudge in my side.

I spun around to defend myself. I saw an American boy with hair the color of fire. He looked to be about the age of Blessing. He grinned and pantomimed fishing.

Blessing = Wong Ming-Chung's brother

I guess he had been thinking some of the same things.

Through signs, we learned each other's names. It took a while to work out his name because his name was in reverse. In China, your family name is the most important thing, so we put our family's name first and our personal name second. Americans must think the opposite, because they put their personal names first and their family names last. Strange. His personal name is Brian. His family name is Mulhern.

He's just as curious about me as I am about him. After a while, I forgot about how strange he looked.

Unfortunately signs got us only so far. So then he took out what I thought was a stick. It ended in a point with some black stuff. He called it a pencil.

He was able to write on the deck without a brush and ink. I don't think I will ever give those up since the writing is nicer to look at, but the pencil is handier when you're traveling.

Then, through pictures and signs, I learned that he is not an American. He comes from a country called Australia. I'm embarrassed to say that I have never heard of it. If I understand him right, his country is to the south of China.

I wish we had studied more about the world. However, our teacher felt that China was the most civilized country in the world. Why should we study any other place? We had learned about the Golden Mountain only because our clansmen were going there.

I admired his pencil so much that he gave it to me. I tried not to take it but he insisted. My new friend has a big heart.

I am writing this with my new writing implement. No more ink sticks. No more inkwells. No more finding water.

- 24** This story is told from the point of view of
- F** a boat captain
 - G** a boy from Australia
 - H** a stranger observing two boys on a boat
 - J** a Chinese boy traveling in a new country

- 25** Which sentence from the first paragraph in “Gold Rush Country” contains an example of alliteration?
- A** “I wound up drifting over to the side of the boat to look at the water.”
 - B** “Suddenly, a fish leapt out of the water.”
 - C** “Its sides shone in the sun so it looked like a silver arrow.”
 - D** “It was so lovely it would be a shame to eat it.”

- 26** Which pair of words **best** fits Brian Mulhern as he is described by the narrator?
- F** athletic and strong
 - G** clever and intelligent
 - H** friendly and generous
 - J** boastful and snobbish

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27 Read the sentence from the story.

I saw an American boy with hair the color of fire.

What is the **most likely** reason the narrator compares the boy's hair color to fire?

- A** to show that the boy's hair is similar to his own
- B** to explain how he learns the nationality of the boy
- C** to show why the narrator feels shy around the boy
- D** to suggest that the boy's hair color seems strange to him

28 Which word **best** describes the narrator's overall reaction toward his new friend?

- F** annoyance
- G** curiosity
- H** disapproval
- J** joy

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