



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

**English**

**Language Arts Test**

**Listening Selection**

Grade **4**

**April 26–28, 2010**

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*.

Remember: This is a secure test. You are not to discuss this test, show it to anyone, or photocopy these materials, as the security of the test could be breached.

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**Listening Selection****Mr. Hacker***by James Stevenson*

In this story, a yellow cat has been visiting Mr. Hacker's porch. He puts out dishes of milk for the cat. The cat drinks the milk but runs away.

The next day Mr. Hacker went to the store and bought some cat food. He put a bowl of cat food and a bowl of milk on his porch. Then he went inside and waited by the window.

A large, brown, dirty-looking dog walked up onto the porch. It looked around. Then it ate the cat food, drank the milk, and strolled away down the road.

"My goodness," said Mr. Hacker.

Then the yellow cat arrived. The cat looked at the empty bowls and started to leave. "Wait," called Mr. Hacker, opening the door, "I'll get some more."

The cat ran away.

The next morning Mr. Hacker made another trip to the store. He bought a bag of dog food and a box of dog bones.

At one side of the porch, he put a bowl of dog food and a dog bone and a bowl of water. At the other side of the porch, he put a bowl of cat food and a bowl of milk.

When he looked out the window, he saw the yellow cat creeping onto the porch. The cat sniffed at the dog food, then walked over to the cat food and began to eat.

"Now I've done it right," said Mr. Hacker.

**Go On**

Just then the cat stopped eating, looked around, and dashed off. The dirty-looking dog appeared, ate the dog food, the dog bone, the cat food, drank the milk and some of the water, too.

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For the next few days, Mr. Hacker was very busy trying to get the right food to the right animal at the right time. Sometimes it worked, but mostly it didn't. The dirty-looking dog seemed to be getting fatter, and the yellow cat skinnier.

One evening as the dog arrived, Mr. Hacker had an idea. He picked up the dog bowl and the dog bone, and carried them into the house. The dog came right after him, wagging its tail. Mr. Hacker put the food on the kitchen floor. The dog ate it up.

Mr. Hacker held the front door open. "Out you go," he said. The dog looked at the open door. Then it jumped up onto the sofa and lay down.

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Two months later, Mr. Hacker was putting cat food out on the front porch for Ellie, the yellow cat—who came by twice a day now and wasn't afraid of anything—when snow began to fall.

"Look at that, Jarvis," he said to the dog, who lived in the house now, and was much cleaner, and slept on the sofa at night. "Maybe I should put out some food for the birds."

Mr. Hacker and Jarvis looked out the back window, watching the snow fly past the apple trees. "A little bird seed couldn't hurt," said Mr. Hacker.

The next day Mr. Hacker put up a bird feeder and filled it with seed. Then he and Jarvis went indoors to see if the birds would notice.

A gray squirrel ran down the apple tree and jumped onto the bird feeder. In a moment all the bird seed was gone. The squirrel ran up the tree.

A couple of birds flew over to the bird feeder, but they didn't stay long.

"Well," said Mr. Hacker, "here we go again!"

**STOP**









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