



New York State Testing Program

English

Language Arts Test

Book 1

Grade

5

January 8–12, 2007

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 will do some reading. Then you will answer questions about what you have read. For the multiple-choice questions, you will mark your answers on the answer sheet. For question 21, you will write your answer directly in the test book.

Go On

Directions

Read this story. Then answer questions 1 through 5.

Mystery Flats

by Rosalyn Hart Finch

It was the hottest day of the year. Uncle Joe was wiping sweat off his face when he came into the house. “Ken, did you let the air out of two tires on my old truck?” he asked me.

“No, I would never do that,” I replied.

“I guess I must have run over some nails,” Uncle Joe said.

I helped him pump some air into the tires so we could drive to the garage.

The garage man couldn’t find any nails in the tires. “Maybe Ken, here, was playing a trick on you,” he told Uncle Joe, winking at me.

“I wouldn’t do that!” I said. “Flat tires aren’t funny.”

“Maybe some neighborhood kids?”

“There are only three who live nearby, and they’re on vacation,” Uncle Joe said. “It’s a mystery.”

The next morning was even hotter. Uncle Joe stormed into the house, shouting, “Now three of my tires are flat! Who could be pulling such a nasty trick?”

We went outside and pumped up the tires again. When Uncle Joe went back inside, I decided to solve this mystery myself. I hid behind a bush, keeping an eye on the truck. Maybe some kid who is visiting one of our neighbors is doing it, I thought. Or maybe a

grown-up is angry at Uncle Joe. But I couldn’t think of anyone who would be angry at Uncle Joe.

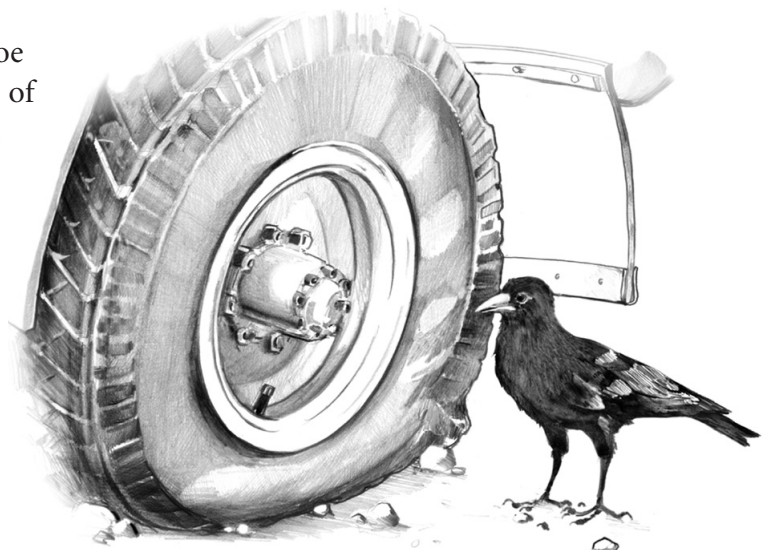
The sun got hotter and hotter. A fly buzzed around my head. I got sleepier and sleepier.

Suddenly I heard a *ssst, ssst* hissing sound. My eyes flew open, and I stared at the strangest sight I’d ever seen.

A crow was standing beside Uncle Joe’s back tire. With its sharp yellow beak it pressed against the tire valve. *Sssst!* I could almost hear the crow sigh with pleasure as it flapped its wings in the cool breeze hissing from the tire.

I felt like a real detective.

“Uncle Joe,” I shouted, running toward the house. “You’re never going to believe this . . .”



1 Why is Uncle Joe upset?

- A** He does not like crows.
- B** It is too hot to work outside.
- C** The garage man could not fix the tires.
- D** He thinks someone is playing a trick on him.

2 Which of these **best** describes the setting when the mystery is solved?

- A** inside an old truck on a summer day
- B** inside Ken's house on a warm evening
- C** outside Uncle Joe's house on a hot day
- D** at a garage on the hottest day of the year

3 The crow lets the air out of the tires because it

- A** wants to cool off
- B** likes to flap its wings
- C** likes to make the tires flat
- D** wants to hear the hissing sound

Go On

4 Read this quote from Uncle Joe after he discovers the three flat tires.

“Who could be pulling such a nasty trick?”

Which meaning of “nasty” is used in this sentence?

- A** dangerous
- B** disgusting
- C** mean
- D** painful

5 If the story had continued, what would **most likely** have happened next?

- A** Ken would go to bed because he is so tired.
- B** Ken would take a shower because he is so hot.
- C** Ken would tell Uncle Joe how he has solved the mystery.
- D** Ken would ask the neighbors if they have seen any kids near the truck.

Directions

Read this article. Then answer questions 6 through 10.

5 Steps to Safe Skating!

by Tulle Miller

In-line skating is a fun sport that everyone can enjoy. Follow these safety tips to keep skating safe and fun.

Step 1: Gear up!

Even before you put on your skates, put on all your safety gear.

You will need:

- a helmet for your head (a bicycle helmet works great)
- knee pads
- elbow pads
- wrist guards

The wrist guards and the pads for your knees and elbows are covered with hard plastic. This means that the plastic gets scraped when you fall—not your skin!

Step 2: Buckle up!

Strap on your skates. Make sure they fit well. Your skates should not be too tight for your feet. But they should fit snugly around your ankles. This helps your ankles stay strong and straight.



Step 3: Fall down!

You probably do not usually try to fall. But it is good to practice falling on skates. Fall forward onto your knee pads. Put out your hands and let your wrist guards hit the ground. See? Are you surprised that it doesn't hurt? Practice falling until it is easy to fall forward and get up again. Knowing how to fall will help you be a better skater. If you are not afraid to fall, you will try new things. You won't be afraid to learn to turn or skate faster. Knowing how to fall will also help you find your balance. When you can stay balanced, you won't fall as much.



Go On

Step 4: Stop!

Make sure you can stop on your skates. You don't want to roll into people or hit a tree! There are different ways to stop. The quickest and safest is probably the brake stop. On in-line skates, the brake is usually on the back of the right skate.

The brake stop:

Roll forward with your skates pointing the same way. Let your right skate roll a little forward. Bend your knees as if you are sitting down. Then press your right heel down hard. This will make your brake pad drag on the ground until you stop. You might fall at first when you are learning to stop. It is not easy, but you will learn with practice. You must learn how to stop so you can be safe when you skate.



The T stop:

Roll forward with your skates pointing the same way. Then turn your right foot out so the toes are pointing to your right. Drag your right skate. Let the wheels drag on the ground until you come to a stop. This is a little harder and takes more balance than the brake stop.



Another way to stop is to run or jump onto the grass. Your wheels won't roll in grass, so you will have to stop.

Step 5: Roll around!

Find a flat, smooth place to practice. Do not skate in streets where there may be cars coming. Parks and playgrounds are good places to practice. Look for "No skating" signs to make sure you can skate there.



Skate School

Taking a skating class might help you get rolling faster than learning on your own. You can look in the telephone book to find classes where you live. You might even be able to take a class at the skate shop.

6 According to the article, which of these steps is **most** important for a new in-line skater?

- A** Learn to fall and stop safely.
- B** Find a class and skate fast.
- C** Relax and have fun.
- D** Buy expensive gear and skates.

7 When you drag your right skate as you turn your right foot to the outside, it is called a

- A** brake stop
- B** drag stop
- C** T stop
- D** grass stop

8 In the step **right after** “Buckle up!” you should practice

- A** how to skate fast
- B** how to brake
- C** how to fall safely
- D** how to put on gear

9 In order to begin a brake stop, you should let your right skate roll forward, bend your knees, and

- A** turn your foot
- B** press your right heel down
- C** put your wrists out in front
- D** tighten your skates

10 How is this article organized?

- A** It tells stories about skating.
- B** It gives descriptions of skates.
- C** It uses a question-and-answer format.
- D** It gives step-by-step instructions.

Go On

Directions

Read this article. Then answer questions 11 through 15.

BUSY BUILDERS

by George Laycock



- 1 A farmer in Minnesota had a big surprise one morning when he looked out his kitchen window. His beautiful cornfield had turned into a muddy lake.
- 2 The farmer rushed out to his truck and hurried to the creek. He discovered that, during the night, a family of beavers had moved in and built a fine new dam across the creek. It was working perfectly, too. Hardly a drop of water was getting through!
- 3 The farmer spent many hours tearing down the dam. Finally, the water ran out of his cornfield and back to the flowing creek.
- 4 That night, the beavers built a new dam. Every night, after the farmer had torn down the dam, the beavers rebuilt it. They used up the trees and the brush. Then, they snipped off all of the farmer's corn to build one last dam of cornstalks.
- 5 When they finally moved on, they left behind a farmer who never wanted to see such hard-working beavers again!
- 6 How does the beaver do it? It sits up on its short hind legs, using its wide, flat tail for balance. It gnaws away at the wood with its long, sharp front teeth until the tree begins to crack. As the tree falls, the beaver dives into the water to keep from being hit!
- 7 Next, the beaver cuts the tree into smaller pieces that it can push or pull through the water. The lakes and ponds created by beaver dams also provide homes for many other animals.
- 8 The beaver feels very safe in the water, where it can escape from wolves, bobcats, bears, and other predators. It can stay underwater for 15 minutes without coming up for air. The beaver's feet have webs between the toes, which make each foot a strong paddle for swimming. Thick, waterproof fur protects the beaver from the cold.
- 9 In the water, the beaver uses its flat tail to help it steer, like a rudder on a boat. When an enemy comes around, the beaver lifts its heavy tail and slaps it on top of the water. This makes a loud cracking sound that warns other beavers to dive into safe water.
- 10 Beavers always seem to be busy cutting trees and building dams or beaver homes. Often they work at night so they can stay out of the way of people. Sometimes, they can be very helpful to people. Wildlife rangers in New Jersey once wanted to flood an area. They wanted to create a new nesting area for water birds. Human experts said it would cost \$25,000.
- 11 Then, a family of beaver "experts" moved in and built a dam for free! Everyone, including the beavers and birds, was happy.

11 How are the first five paragraphs of the article organized?

- A** A question is asked and then answered.
- B** Two sides of an argument are presented.
- C** Events are placed in the order they happened.
- D** Events are listed from most important to least important.

12 Which information would fit **best** in paragraphs 6 through 9?

- A** how beavers build their homes in ponds
- B** how humans design and construct dams
- C** how farm crops are damaged by flooding
- D** how nesting areas are built for water birds

13 How is the farmer's reaction to the beavers different from the wildlife rangers' reaction?

- A** The farmer ignores the beavers' work.
- B** The farmer is jealous of the beavers' work.
- C** The farmer is angry about the beavers' work.
- D** The farmer is excited to see the beavers' work.

14 Why did the beavers move from the creek near the farmer's field?

- A** The water in the creek had dried up.
- B** The farmer had chased the beavers away.
- C** The beavers had used up all the resources.
- D** The water birds had moved into the creek.

15 The wildlife rangers in New Jersey would **most likely** describe the beavers as

- A** amusing
- B** expensive
- C** troublesome
- D** useful

Go On

Directions

Read this story. Then answer questions 16 through 21.

Treasure in the Field

A Vietnamese folktale

Retold by Marilyn Bolchunos

Once there was an old man who lived with his two young sons on a farm in Vietnam. The mother of the boys had died. Since the old man had to tend the field, the boys took care of the house. That is, they were supposed to take care of the house, but they were lazy.

Often the father returned home to find that nothing had been done—he even had to cook dinner.

“What have you been doing all day, Ta?” he would ask his older son.

“Studying, Father, and thinking,” Ta would reply.

“And what have you been doing, Hai, my young son?” the father would ask.

“Watching the house for you,” Hai would answer.

A neighbor asked the old man, “Are your sons helping you?”

“Oh, they would,” the father answered, “but they are young, and they miss their mother.”

Some years later, the neighbor asked, “Aren’t your sons helping you in the field?”

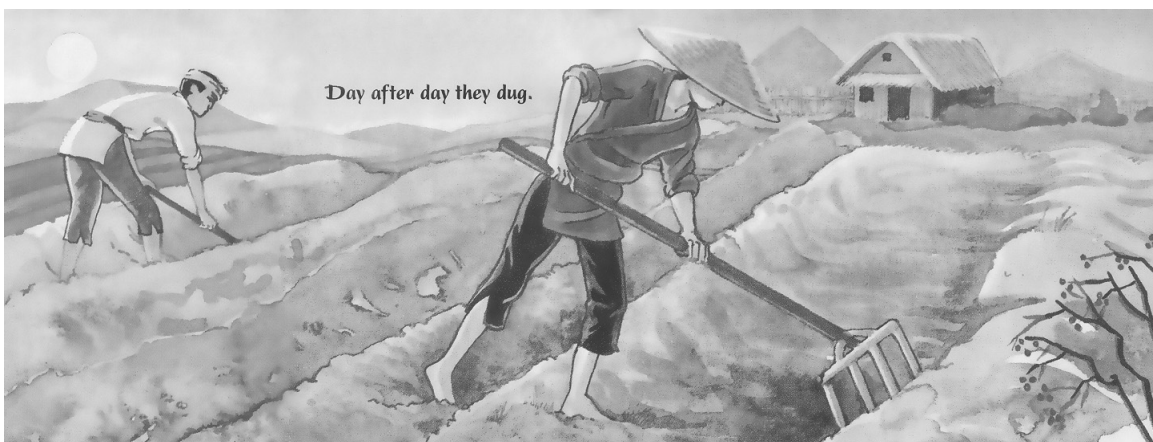
“Oh, they would,” the father replied again, “but they are still young. I will let them enjoy life now. They will help me later on.”

As the years went by, it became clear even to their father that the boys were lazy. Though they sometimes tended the field with him, they always made excuses to go home early.

Finally the father grew too old to work, and he took to his bed. The sons were sad, for they not only depended on their father, but they also loved him.

One day the old man called Ta and Hai to his side and said weakly, “I have a secret to tell you, my sons. Bend close.”

Hai and Ta leaned over to hear the secret.



“Before your mother died,” the old man said, “we learned that there is treasure buried in the field. It’s still there, but you must dig for it.”

The sons’ eyes widened.

“Treasure in the field?” Ta said.

“Where?” asked Hai.

“Dig for it, and you will find it,” said their father. “But promise me that you will share it equally.”

The sons promised and hurried out to begin. Day after day they dug. Their neighbor was astonished to see how long and hard the young men worked. As for Ta and Hai, they felt stronger and better than ever before.

At last, the entire field had been dug, but no treasure had been found. The brothers moped around with their heads down.

Finally an idea came to Ta. “The land is ready for planting,” he said to his brother. “And our

rice is almost gone. You take one half of the field, and I’ll take the other. We’ll tend it just as Father did.”

The days passed and the seedlings grew. In due time, the field gave an abundant harvest. There was rice to eat and rice to sell.

When the sons took the rice to the marketplace, it brought a good price.

Excited, Ta and Hai ran back to the house and approached their father’s bedside. They dropped coins into the old man’s hands.

“Look, Father,” said Hai. “We have sold rice and brought you gold!”

“Yes,” said Ta. “Just as you said, the treasure was in the field.”

The old man smiled. They had learned his secret.

16 Which word **best** describes the father in the story?

- A** lazy
- B** sad
- C** wealthy
- D** wise

17 At first, the father ignores his sons’ unwillingness to work in the field because

- A** he likes to work in the field by himself
- B** his sons are young and miss their mother
- C** his sons are busy taking care of the house
- D** he thinks studying is more important than working

Go On

18 Read these sentences from the story.

In due time, the field gave an abundant harvest. There was rice to eat and rice to sell.

In the first sentence, the word “abundant” means

- A** average
- B** flavorful
- C** important
- D** plentiful

19 The rice in the story is a “treasure” because it is

- A** hard to find
- B** shared equally
- C** sold for gold coins
- D** buried in the ground

20 Which statement **best** describes why this story is a folktale?

- A** It is about people and events from the author’s life.
- B** It is about the lives and beliefs of common people.
- C** It is about a real event in ancient history.
- D** It is about people in a faraway place.

21

At the end of the story, the boys had learned their father’s “secret.” What is the father’s secret? Use details from the story to support your answer.

STOP

Place Student Label Here



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