



New York State Testing Program

English

Language Arts Test

Book 1

Grade **4**

January 8–12, 2007

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 your response.

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Reading***D*irections**

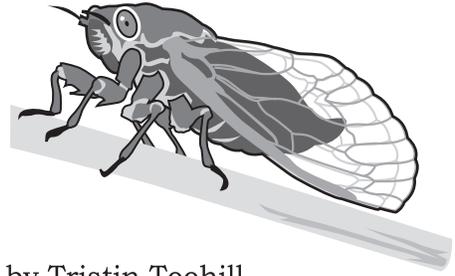
In this part of the test, you are going to do some reading. Then you will answer questions about what you have read.

Go On

Directions

Read this story. Then answer questions 1 through 5.

Song of the Cicada



by Tristin Toohill

Cicada =
si-KAY-duh

Late in the summer, on a cool evening, Addy and her father heard a song high in the trees. “Listen!” said Daddy. “Cicadas!”

Together they searched the trees around their yard and found empty cicada shells. “An insect used to live inside,” Daddy explained. “When it grew bigger, it left its shell behind.” Gently Addy and Daddy pulled the fragile shells off the trees and collected them in a bucket.

fragile = easily
broken

Just as Addy reached for one of the shells, it began to walk! The cicada was still inside. Addy watched it slowly crawl up the tree. Then it stopped and sat motionless for what seemed like a long time. A small crack began to open down its shell. The crack got wider and wider, until Addy could see the insect’s back emerging. When its head popped out, Addy looked right into its shiny green eyes.

Slowly and gently each leg slipped out of the shell—two small ones on the front, two in the middle, and two bigger ones on the back. Addy could see two tiny, thin wings that looked like wet paper.

Daddy brought out a chair. “Aren’t your legs getting tired?” he asked. “You’ve been watching for almost an hour now.”

“Look, Daddy!” exclaimed Addy. “Something is happening to the wings.”

“The cicada has tiny vessels in its wings,” said Daddy. “It fills these vessels with fluid from its body to expand the wings.”

Patently Addy sat in her chair and watched and watched. The sun went down, and the air became very cool. Mommy called from the house, “Time to come inside!”

Reluctantly Addy went inside. When she was ready for bed, she and Daddy took his flashlight out to check on the cicada once more. It was still resting on its shell.

“It was hard work for the cicada to come out of its shell,” said Daddy. “It probably needs a long rest.”

When Addy woke the next morning, she ran outside to the tree to check her cicada. A fragile, dull, empty shell was hanging in the spot she had stared at for so long.

That evening, as Daddy pushed Addy on her swing, they heard a familiar song high in the trees.

“Listen!” said Addy. “My cicada!”

1 Which event happens **first** in the story?

- A** Addy’s mother calls her inside.
- B** Addy runs out to check her cicada.
- C** Addy discovers a shell that moves.
- D** Addy’s father brings her a chair.

2 Why does the cicada in the story leave its shell behind?

- A** The shell breaks easily.
- B** It finds a new place to hide.
- C** The shell is too heavy.
- D** It grows too big for the shell.

Go On

3 Which word **best** describes Addy?

- A** active
- B** curious
- C** funny
- D** strong

4 What would **most likely** happen next in the story?

- A** Addy will chase the cicadas away.
- B** Addy will start playing with the cicadas.
- C** Addy will be afraid of cicadas.
- D** Addy will look for more cicadas to watch.

5 Read the sentence from the story.

The crack got wider and wider, until Addy could see the insect’s back emerging.

The word “emerging” **most likely** means

- A** coming out
- B** bending over
- C** growing larger
- D** changing color

Directions

Read this article. Then answer questions 6 through 12.

A Koala Isn't a Bear

by Shirley Ramaley

It looks like a bear but it's not even related to a bear. It's a koala. This little animal is related to a group of animals that includes the kangaroo. It lives in the wild in only one place in the world, the East coast of Australia.

Koalas remind people of teddy bears. They have thick fur and large fluffy ears. Their broad, flat nose makes them look "cuddly," similar to a gray and white teddy bear. Koalas aren't cuddly though. They have sharp teeth and very sharp claws!

marsupials =
mar-SOO-pea-uhs

Koalas are marsupials. This means the mother carries her baby in a pouch while it develops, similar to a kangaroo. The koala cub, or "Joey," lives in its mother's pouch for the first six months of its life.

Aboriginal =
ab-or-IJ-in-uhl

The name "koala" comes from an Aboriginal (native Australian) word that means "no drink." The koalas get almost all their water from the eucalyptus leaves they eat. That's where they get their food too. Koalas eat only eucalyptus leaves, and only the leaves of certain eucalyptus trees.

As the leaves grow, they produce toxins or poisons. Koalas have a good sense of smell. They know which leaves they can eat and which are toxic.



Go On

Koalas' strong limbs and big hands help them climb the trees. The eucalyptus trees are where the koalas live. It's also where they sleep. Koalas sleep about nineteen hours a day!

Why do they sleep so much? Some people think it's because they're lazy. But koalas aren't lazy. They sleep so much because there isn't much nutrition in eucalyptus leaves. Koalas store hardly any fat, so they must conserve their energy. One way to do this is to move slowly and sleep a lot.

After a day of sleeping they like to move around and eat just after sunset. They live alone most of the time. Koalas are very protective of their trees. If a koala sees another koala eating in its favorite tree, it might tell the other koala to leave by "barking" at it.

Koalas do "talk" to each other. Besides barks, the males make a deep grunting sound. The mothers and babies talk in soft clicking sounds. They also make humming or murmuring sounds. If they get upset or scared they may scream like a baby.

Koalas are cute and look very cuddly. But they aren't pets. If you want to hold something cuddly, hold your dog or cat or teddy bear. You can see koalas, though, if you visit Australia, or one of many animal parks and zoos around the world.

-
- 6** According to the article, how are koalas and kangaroos alike?
- A** They both have thick fur.
 - B** They both eat eucalyptus tree leaves.
 - C** They both have big hands.
 - D** They both carry their young in a pouch.

- 7** According to the article, the word "koala" comes from a word that means
- A** no drink
 - B** move slowly
 - C** teddy bear
 - D** eucalyptus tree

8 Read this sentence from the article.

Koalas' strong limbs and big hands help them climb the trees.

In this sentence, the word “limbs” **most likely** means

- A** teeth
- B** legs
- C** pouch
- D** ears

9 According to the article, why do koalas sleep a lot?

- A** They get tired from playing so much.
- B** Their food does not give them much energy.
- C** They do not like to be awake when it is warm.
- D** Their babies must take many naps.

10 Read these sentences from the article.

Koalas are very protective of their trees. If a koala sees another koala eating in its favorite tree, it might tell the other koala to leave by “barking” at it.

The first sentence means that koalas

- A** hide in their trees
- B** climb in their trees
- C** are afraid of their trees
- D** guard their trees

Go On

11 If an adult koala becomes upset, it will **most likely** make a sound like

- A** clicking
- B** humming
- C** screaming
- D** murmuring

12 Read this sentence from the article.

Koalas do “talk” to each other.

In this sentence, why does the author include quotation marks around “talk”?

- A** to tell what someone said about koalas
- B** to point out a word that koalas understand
- C** to explain that koalas do not really speak like humans
- D** to show that koalas can be trained to use human words

Directions

Read this story. Then answer questions 13 through 17.

The Cracked Chinese Jug

by Carolyn Han

illustrated by Christine Joy Pratt



Each morning Han Han fetched water for his village from the river. He placed a bamboo shoulder pole across his back and put the empty jugs on either side.

When Han Han returned to the village, he had one and a half jugs of water. One clay jug had a tiny crack, and some of its water had leaked out.

The perfect jug was proud of itself. It had carried a full load of water. But the imperfect jug was embarrassed. It had done only half of the work.

One day the cracked jug could stand it no longer. “I’m a failure,” it cried. “Why do I have a crack?”

Ignoring the jug’s cry, Han Han carefully filled both jugs with water at the river. By the time they reached the village, the cracked jug was again only half full. “Why don’t you throw me away?” asked the broken jug.

Han Han smiled at the jugs and put them on the shelf.

The next morning when Han Han placed the jugs on the ends of his shoulder pole, he said to the broken one, “For months, I’ve heard you complain.”

Go On

“I’m ashamed of myself,” answered the cracked jug. “I’m worthless.”

“Today when we return to the village, I want you to look along the path,” said Han Han.

It was the first time the broken jug noticed the flowers. The colorful flowers made the cracked jug very happy. But then it remembered its crack and the leaking water, and again it felt sad.

“What did you think of the flowers?” asked Han Han.

“They’re pretty,” replied the jug. “They’re only growing on my side of the path.”

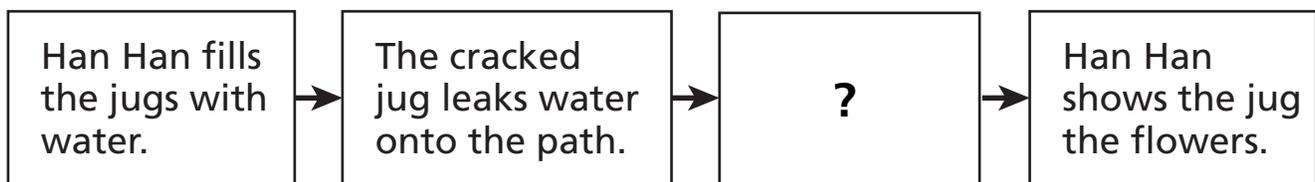
“That’s right,” said Han Han. “For months you’ve watered the wildflower seeds. Your ‘failure,’ as you call it, has changed our village and made it more beautiful.”

“Then all that time I felt useless,” said the cracked jug, “my flaw was really my most valuable part!”

13 Which word **best** describes Han Han?

- A** careful
- B** wise
- C** happy
- D** strong

14 The chart below shows the order of events in the story.



Which event **best** completes the chart?

- A** The cracked jug realizes it is valuable.
- B** Han Han carries the jugs to the river.
- C** The cracked jug cries because it leaks.
- D** Han Han puts the empty jugs on the pole.

15 What will **most likely** happen next in the story?

- A** Han Han will sell the jugs.
- B** The cracked jug will feel proud.
- C** Han Han will fix the cracked jug.
- D** The jugs will become friends.

16 Which detail about the jugs is **most** important to the story?

- A** The perfect jug carries a full load of water.
- B** Han Han smiles at the jugs and puts them on the shelf.
- C** Han Han carries the jugs with a bamboo pole on his shoulder.
- D** The cracked jug sees that the flowers are only on his side of the path.

17 Read this sentence from the story.

“Then all that time I felt useless,” said the cracked jug, “my flaw was really my most valuable part!”

Which word means about the same as “flaw”?

- A** sadness
- B** cleverness
- C** kindness
- D** weakness

Go On

Directions

Read this article. Then answer questions 18 through 23.

Red, White, and Blue

by John Herman

We all know the American flag. Its bright colors fly at baseball games.

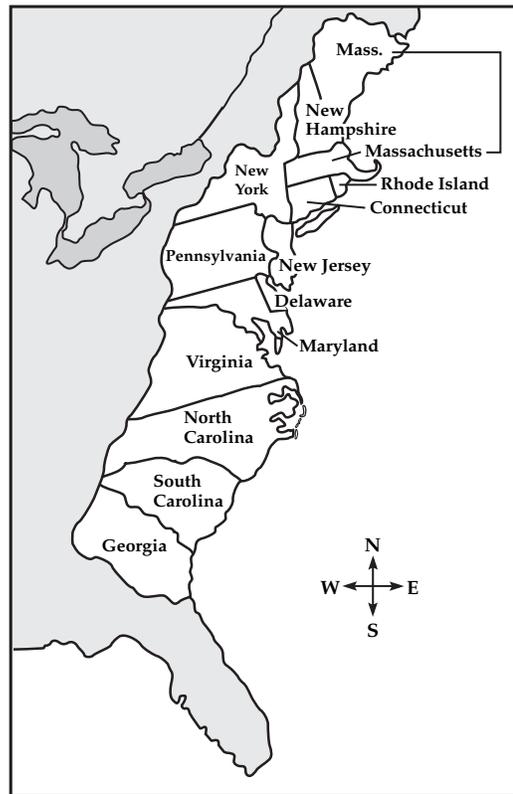
It flies at Fourth of July parades. We even see it on clothes!

Our flag has lots of nicknames—like Old Glory and the Red, White, and Blue. Sometimes it's called the Stars and Stripes. But where did our flag come from? Who decided what it would look like? The truth is that no one knows for sure.

Back in the 1700s, America didn't have a flag. It didn't need one. It wasn't even a country yet. It was just thirteen colonies. The colonies belonged to England. The English flag flew in towns from New Hampshire to Georgia.

But as time went on, the thirteen colonies didn't want to belong to England anymore. Americans decided to fight for their freedom. A war began. It was the American Revolution. Now a new flag was needed—an American flag.

Who made our first flag? Some people say it was a woman named Betsy Ross. Maybe you've heard of her. Betsy Ross



Map of the Thirteen Colonies

owned a sewing shop in Philadelphia. She was famous for her sewing.

The story is that one day a general came to see her. The general was George Washington. He was the head of the American army. General Washington wanted a new flag. It would make his soldiers feel like a real army fighting for a real country.

He wanted Betsy Ross to make this flag. He drew a picture of what he wanted. Betsy Ross made some changes. Then she showed the picture to General Washington. He liked it! Betsy Ross sewed the flag. And that was the very first Stars and Stripes.

- 18** What is this article **mostly** about?
- A** the history of the American flag
 - B** the power of the American army
 - C** the freedom of the American colonies
 - D** the events of the American Revolution

- 19** According to the article, what does everyone know for sure about the American flag?
- A** who made it
 - B** what it looks like
 - C** who drew it
 - D** where it came from

- 20** America did **not** have its own flag in the 1700s because
- A** America was not a country yet
 - B** America was fighting a war
 - C** no one knew how to make one
 - D** no one could agree on its color

- 21** According to the article, no one knows for sure if Betsy Ross
- A** worked in Philadelphia
 - B** was famous for her sewing
 - C** had her own sewing shop
 - D** made the first American flag

- 22** According to the article, why did George Washington want a new flag?
- A** He did not like the flag sewn by Betsy Ross.
 - B** He wanted something to fly at his parades.
 - C** He wanted his soldiers to feel like a real army.
 - D** He did not like the colors of the English flag.

- 23** In the article, what happened **right after** Betsy Ross showed George Washington her picture?
- A** She sewed the flag.
 - B** He liked her ideas.
 - C** She made more changes.
 - D** He drew her a picture.

Go On

Directions

Read this poem. Then answer questions 24 through 28.

The Island

by Margarita Mondrus Engle

What if you were sitting still
At the edge of the great blue sea,
Your toes wiggling in the sand,
No place you had to be?

And then you saw an island
Above the waves of blue.
The island had tall mountains
And a towering castle, too.

So you built yourself a raft
And bravely rowed the oars.
Sailing in the great blue sea,
You finally reached the island's shore.

But when you stepped onto the island,
It started to float away.
You said, "Hey, wait a minute!"
It answered, "What did you say?"

Then you discovered that the mountains
Were really a great big flapping tail,
And the castle was a tower of spray—
The island was a WHALE!

And then the whale said,
"Hold your breath,"
And dived to the ocean floor.
He introduced you to his friends
And knocked on a mermaid's door.

Then you danced with a dolphin,
And a sea horse gave you a ride.
A hammerhead shark tipped his hat,
And an eel showed you where to hide.

Then the whale said, "Wasn't that great?"
And you said, "It sure was fun!"
So the whale carried you up to your raft,
And you dried off in the sun.

As you rowed back to the seashore,
You waved to your friend the whale,
And he sent up a castle of spray
And waved back with his mountain tail.

24 This poem is about a person who

- A** visits a castle
- B** explores an island
- C** climbs a mountain
- D** meets a whale

25 What does the poet compare to a mountain?

- A** the whale's tail
- B** the color of the ocean
- C** the whale's spray
- D** the size of the ocean

26 Which event from the poem shows something that could **really** happen?

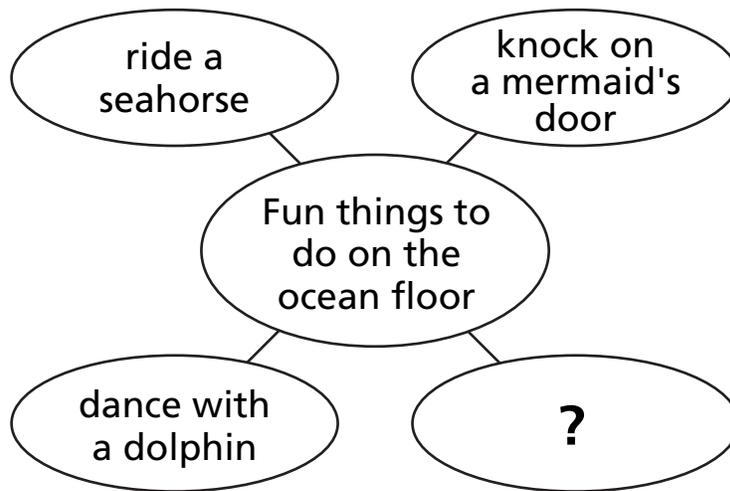
- A** a whale introducing his friends
- B** wiggling your toes in the sand
- C** knocking on a mermaid's door
- D** a hammerhead shark tipping his hat

27 The main character has **most likely** learned that

- A** islands are fun places to visit
- B** trying new things can be difficult
- C** children should not play with whales
- D** things may be different than they seem

Go On

Here is a web about the poem.



According to the poem, which phrase **best** completes the web?

- A** shake hands with an octopus
- B** hide with an eel
- C** walk sideways like a crab
- D** sing with a starfish

STOP



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