



New York State Testing Program

English

Language Arts Test

Book 1

Grade **4**

January 7–11, 2008

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 article. Then answer questions 1 through 7.

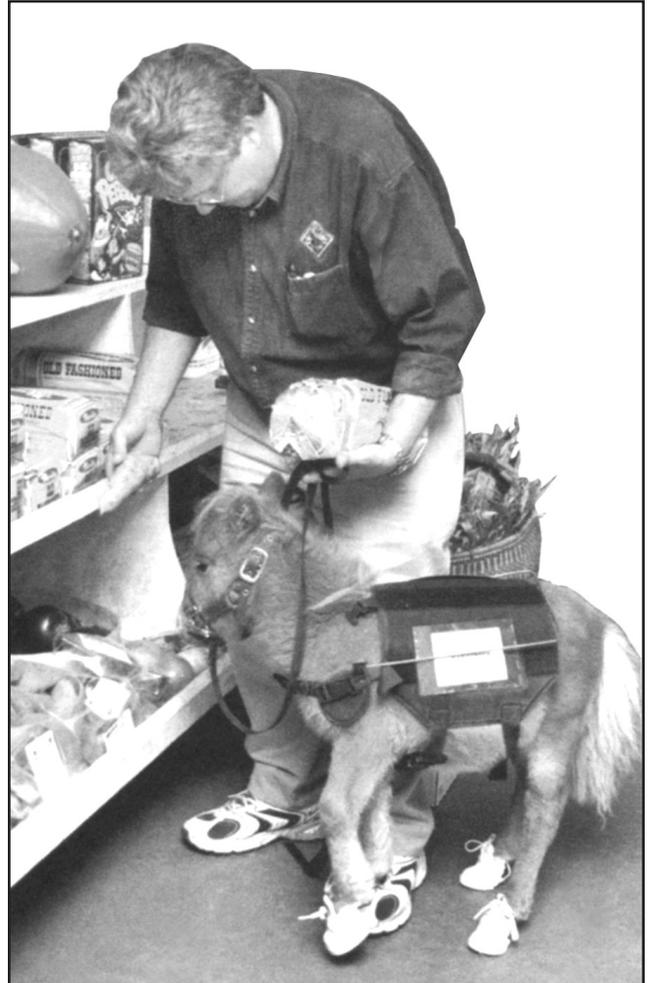
Follow That Horse

by Shannon Teper

Cuddles is on the job! Her owner, Dan Shaw, grips the handle of her harness. He says, "Take a walk," and the pair starts off. Because he is blind, Dan can't see the road ahead, but he knows he's safe with Cuddles. Cuddles is one of only a few trained guide horses for blind people.

Cuddles, a chestnut miniature horse, stands knee-high next to Dan. At 26 inches tall and 80 pounds, she's the size of a large dog. Since Cuddles is compact, she can go everywhere Dan goes. She rides elevators, fits under restaurant tables, and flies with Dan on an airplane. Cuddles is also housebroken. A horse that isn't housebroken cannot be a guide horse.

Wherever she goes, Cuddles wears four tiny sneakers. At first, the sneakers must have felt strange. Cuddles lifted her hooves high and tried to step out of them. Now she wears sneakers everywhere. They protect her hooves



from being hurt by broken glass or hot pavement, and from slipping on polished floors.

Cuddles is the first miniature horse to guide a blind owner. Janet and Don Burleson trained Cuddles at the Guide Horse Foundation in Kittrell, North Carolina. The Burlesons wanted to offer another choice to blind people who are allergic to or afraid of dogs.

Dan feels more comfortable being guided by a horse. "I've loved horses all

my life. I'm proud to walk down the street with a horse," he said.

Cuddles learned 23 different commands during her training. Like guide dogs, guide horses learn commands such as *forward*, *right*, and *left*, as well as requests such as *Find the door*.

Cuddles also learned to "spook in place," to stand still instead of running away when something frightens her.

To keep Dan safe, Cuddles was taught to decide when to disobey. If Dan commands her to cross the street when a car is coming, Cuddles won't cross.

Cuddles saved Dan from danger recently when a bike raced into his path. She quickly stepped between him and the bicycle. "She makes sure I'm safe," Dan said.

Cuddles has been guiding Dan since May 2001. Now he wouldn't be without

her. Dan says, "The best thing about Cuddles is the freedom and independence she's given me. She's brought a lot of happiness to my life."

Big Facts About Little Horses

- Miniature horses are cheap to feed. Hay costs \$4 per week, and oats cost 25 cents per day.
- They don't have fleas!
- Most people are not allergic to miniature horses.
- They need room to exercise. A fenced-in yard works best.
- Guide horses need special care. At this time, only people over age 16 are taught to care for and handle guide horses.
- So far, there are only a few trained miniature guide horses.

1 What is Cuddles taught to do if something frightens her?

- A** stand still
- B** disobey Dan
- C** hide under a table
- D** step in front of Dan

2 What information can be found in the section "Big Facts About Little Horses"?

- A** the people saved by miniature horses
- B** the commands miniature horses learn
- C** the cost of feeding miniature horses
- D** the reasons miniature horses need shoes

Go On

3 According to “Big Facts About Little Horses,” who can **best** handle guide horses?

- A** people who are allergic to dogs
- B** people who have fenced-in yards
- C** people who buy hay and oats
- D** people over the age of sixteen

4 Read the chart below.

Reasons to Use a Guide Horse
They do not have fleas.
They are inexpensive to feed.
?

Which sentence **best** completes the chart?

- A** They must be housebroken.
- B** They sometimes get frightened.
- C** They walk around with sneakers.
- D** They can learn commands as dogs do.

5 Read these sentences from the article.

Since Cuddles is compact, she can go everywhere Dan goes. She rides elevators, fits under restaurant tables, and flies with Dan on an airplane.

The word “compact” in the first sentence **most likely** means

- A** cute
- B** little
- C** healthy
- D** friendly

- 6** The author **most likely** wrote this article in order to
- A** entertain readers with a story about guide horses
 - B** teach readers how to train and care for guide horses
 - C** inform readers that horses can be used as guide animals
 - D** show readers that horses are better guide animals than dogs

- 7** Which sentence from the article **best** tells why a miniature horse would be a good guide animal?
- A** “Cuddles is one of only a few trained guide horses for blind people.”
 - B** “Since Cuddles is compact, she can go everywhere Dan goes.”
 - C** “Wherever she goes, Cuddles wears four tiny sneakers.”
 - D** “Cuddles is the first miniature horse to guide a blind owner.”

Go On

Directions

Read this poem. Then answer questions 8 through 11.

My Hand Was in the Cookie Jar

by Dave Crawley

My hand was in the cookie jar
When Grandma wandered in.
I knew she'd caught me in the act.
There was no way I'd win.

"It's not my fault!" I blurted out.
"There's nothing I could do.
I heard the cookies calling me
As cookies often do.

"Oatmeal raisins sang to me.
The nut bars did the same.
And chocolate chips may not have lips
But still they called my name.

"Just take a bite. It's quite all right.
Just try us, pretty please!
They pleaded with me, kneeling
On their little cookie knees!"

But Grandma wasn't angry.
No, she wasn't mad at all.
"Kids are not the only ones
To hear the cookies' call."

Carefully, she took the jar
And placed it on the shelf.
"The jar is empty," Grandma said.
"I ate the last myself!"

8 What happens **right after** the child's hand is in the cookie jar?

- A** The cookies sing to the child.
- B** Grandma walks in and sees her grandchild.
- C** Grandma takes the jar from her grandchild.
- D** The cookies plead with the child.

9 Which statement **best** describes the child in the poem?

- A** The child likes to tell jokes.
- B** The child enjoys baking.
- C** The child is a good friend.
- D** The child has a good imagination.

10 Which line from the poem tells something that could **not** really happen?

- A** "My hand was in the cookie jar"
- B** "I knew she'd caught me in the act."
- C** "I heard the cookies calling me"
- D** "Carefully, she took the jar"

11 What will Grandma **most likely** do next?

- A** buy herself a new jar
- B** eat some cookies and milk
- C** laugh with her grandchild
- D** make up a story about cookies

Go On

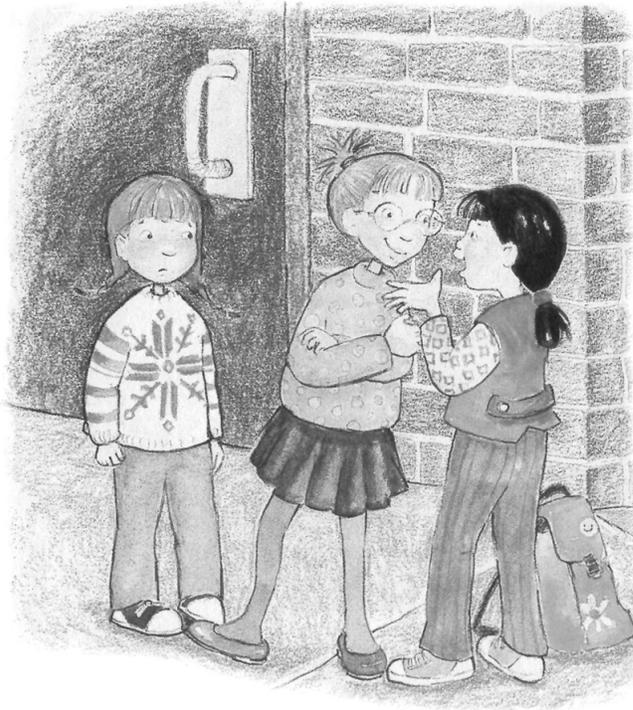
Directions

Read this story about a girl who wants to see a movie. Then answer questions 12 through 16.

First in Line

by Gertrude Fass

illustrated by Stephanie Roth



Caroline was eating her scrambled eggs too fast.

“Don’t gobble, Caroline,” her mother said. “You have plenty of time. The movie doesn’t begin until ten o’clock.”

It was Saturday morning, and *Pinocchio* was going to be shown at school.

“But I have to be first in line,” said Caroline. “If I’m first, maybe I will get to sit next to Miss Olmstead.”

Miss Olmstead was Caroline’s favorite teacher. She had long brown hair and she smiled a lot.

Caroline finished her eggs, put on her coat, and ran to the door.

But her mother called after her, “Caroline, come back. You forgot to brush your teeth.”

Caroline ran back, brushed her teeth, and ran to the door.

But her mother called after her, “Caroline, you forgot your quarter for the movie. Come back and I’ll give it to you.”

The principal was going to collect all the quarters to buy toys for children in the hospital.

While her mother looked in her purse for the quarter, Caroline hopped up and down saying, “Please hurry!” She did want to be first in line.

Caroline hurried to school as fast as she could, but she arrived too late. Nancy was already standing on the top step of the main entrance. Caroline took her place behind Nancy. She was disappointed not to be first, but it wasn't too bad to be second. After all, Miss Olmstead had two sides. If Nancy sat on one side, Caroline could have the other side.

But now Frances was coming up to join them. Frances was Nancy's best friend.

Frances said, "Caroline, could I please stand in front of you, so I can be right after Nancy?"

Caroline shook her head. She couldn't let Frances stand in front of her. That would make her third, and Miss Olmstead didn't have three sides.

Frances turned to Nancy. "Nancy, you'll let me stand in front of you won't you?"

Nancy said, "All right." She couldn't say no to her best friend.

So now Caroline was third in line.

More children kept coming. Frances let a boy with red hair stand in front of her, and he let a boy with a computer game stand in front of him. Everyone else who came was able to get into line ahead of a friend.

The line grew longer and longer. Poor Caroline wasn't third anymore. Soon she was tenth, then twenty-first. No matter how many children came, Caroline was last in line.

By ten o'clock the line stretched all the way around the school to the side entrance. Caroline was standing just in front of the side entrance when the door suddenly opened.

The principal was there. He was surprised to see the line of children facing the wrong way. "Now, why on earth . . .," he wondered aloud. Then he said, "I guess no one told them to come in the side entrance."

The principal cupped his hands around his mouth and called, "Turn around, boys and girls, and have your quarters ready!"

Naturally, Caroline was first in line. At last! She gave her quarter to the principal and went into the auditorium. Miss Olmstead was already sitting down. Caroline went over and sat down in the seat next to her.

"Well, Caroline!" Miss Olmstead said, smiling. "You must have hurried to be first inside."

"I did," said Caroline happily, and she settled back to wait for the movie to begin.



Go On

12 This story **mostly** takes place

- A** in a house
- B** at a school
- C** at a park
- D** in a store

13 What is the **main** problem in the story?

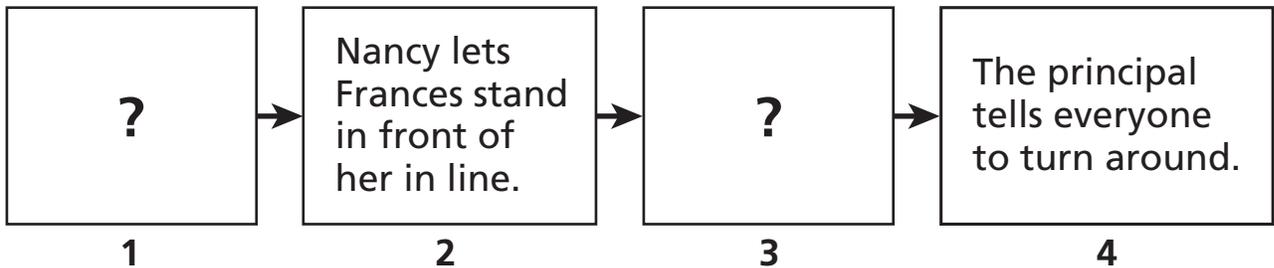
- A** Caroline has to hurry to get to the movie.
- B** Caroline forgets her quarter at home.
- C** Caroline keeps getting farther back in line.
- D** Caroline faces the wrong way in the line.

14 Why does Caroline refuse to let Frances stand in front of her in line?

- A** Frances is not her friend.
- B** Caroline wants to be first in line.
- C** Frances is not going to watch the movie.
- D** Caroline wants to sit by her teacher.

Directions

The chart below shows what happens in the story. Read the chart. Then answer questions 15 and 16.



- 15** Which event **best** fits in Box 1?
- A** Caroline hurries to see the movie.
 - B** Caroline finds a seat in the auditorium.
 - C** Caroline pays her quarter to see the movie.
 - D** Caroline stands in front of the side entrance.

- 16** Which event **best** fits in Box 3?
- A** Caroline sits next to her teacher.
 - B** Caroline eats her eggs too fast.
 - C** The students pay to see the movie.
 - D** The side door suddenly opens.

Go On

Directions

Here is a passage from a book about sleep. Read the passage. Then answer questions 17 through 23.

Why Do We Need Sleep?

by Dr. Alvin Silverstein

Why is sleep so important? During the day, you spend a lot of time running, jumping, laughing, eating, and talking. You use up a lot of energy, and by the end of the day you're tired. Sleep gives your body a chance to rest. But your mind and body are not completely at rest during sleep. They're actually working hard to "recharge your batteries" so that you will wake up feeling good and ready to go.

While you sleep, your brain sorts out all the things that happened during the day. It stores away the important events as memories. It also goes over things you were wondering or worrying about, and you may wake up with answers to some of your problems.

You also grow while you sleep. A chemical called "human growth hormone" is released in the body during sleep to help the growth of cells and tissues. This growth hormone also helps the body to repair itself—to heal cuts, bruises, and sore muscles.

Sleep helps your body to conserve energy too. You use up a lot of energy during your daily activities. But when you sleep, your body temperature falls, and your "metabolism" (the chemical reactions that use up energy in the body) slows down. You are still using some energy, but much less than when you are awake and active.

Have you ever stayed up past your bedtime? Did you get cranky? Did you have trouble getting up the next morning? Maybe you had problems seeing clearly or your mind was in a fog. That was your body's way of saying, "I need sleep!" Getting the right amount of sleep is very important. A lack of sleep can keep your body and mind from working properly.

17 What is this passage **mostly** about?

- A** how the brain sleeps
- B** how much sleep you need
- C** how sleep affects your body
- D** how many ways to go to sleep

18 What does “human growth hormone” do while people sleep?

- A** It helps repair the body.
- B** It helps store memories.
- C** It helps answer problems.
- D** It helps slow the body down.

19 According to the passage, what is **one** way your body tells you that you need sleep?

- A** Your muscles are sore.
- B** You enjoy daily activities.
- C** Your body temperature falls.
- D** You have trouble waking up.

20 Read these sentences from the passage.

Sleep helps your body to conserve energy too. You use up a lot of energy during your daily activities.

What does the word “conserve” **most likely** mean?

- A** grasp
- B** move
- C** save
- D** trade

Go On

- 21** According to the passage, what happens if people go to bed too late?
- A** They grow too fast.
 - B** They can get cranky.
 - C** They save up energy.
 - D** They worry more.

- 22** After reading this passage, what could the reader conclude?
- A** People feel tired after they sleep.
 - B** Activities are more important than sleep.
 - C** Sleep helps the body work correctly.
 - D** People worry more when they sleep.

- 23** Why did the author **most likely** write this passage?
- A** to explain the importance of sleeping
 - B** to convince readers to enjoy sleeping
 - C** to share ideas about how to go to sleep
 - D** to entertain readers with a story about sleep

Directions

Read this story. Then answer questions 24 through 28.

Betsy Brandon Meets the President

by M.V. Pollock

illustrated by Anne Neilson

There was a flurry of excitement in the Brandon household early one morning in 1791. It was the day that General Washington, the president, was supposed to visit Salisbury, North Carolina. Everybody planned to be there. Everybody, it seemed, except fourteen-year-old Betsy, the oldest child of Squire Richard Brandon's family. Betsy had to stay at home to finish the chores.

"Ha! Betsy won't get to see the president," teased the younger children, climbing into the family buggy.

But Betsy was not one to mope. She returned to the kitchen and swept the floor. Then she took her bonnet from the hook on the back of the door. She was going outside to feed the chickens. But what was that rumbling noise?

mope = act sad

Betsy hurried to the front door and peeked out. Her eyes grew wide. Coming down the road that passed in front of the house was the most beautiful coach she had ever seen. It was pale ivory and trimmed in gold.

As it came near, Betsy felt herself drawn down the pathway to get a better view. The coach was decorated with scenes that reminded Betsy of the four seasons. And it had a great emblem on it, like a coat of arms.



Go On

The driver pulled on the reins. “Whoa!” he said. The harnesses tinkled musically as the four fine horses halted right in front of the gate where Betsy stood.

The door of the coach opened, and a tall, handsome man in uniform stepped down. He was almost as tall as her father. He tipped his hat and nodded at her. Then another, even more handsome man stepped out. He was white-haired and stood at least six-feet-four.

“Good morning, miss,” said the white-haired man. His face was stern and deeply lined, but his blue eyes were warm and friendly.

“Good morning, sir,” Betsy said, quavering.

“Is your father home?”

“No, sir.”

“Is your mother home?”

As Betsy shook her head, her braids moved back and forth. “My family went to Salisbury to see the president,” she explained.

“Did you not wish to see the president, too?” The voice was kind.

“Oh, yes, sir,” Betsy replied, “but I must stay here to do the chores.”

“If you make breakfast for us,” came the reply, “I promise that you will see the president before the others will.”

Thinking that the president would soon pass by on his way to Salisbury, Betsy hurried into the kitchen. She cooked a delicious breakfast that the men enjoyed.

They thanked her and were about to leave. Betsy asked, “Sir, when my family returns, to whom shall I say I served breakfast?”

The white-haired man climbed inside the coach. Leaning out the window, he smiled. “Just tell them you served breakfast to President Washington and his aide,” he said. And the coach rolled away in a cloud of dust.

Editor’s note: President Washington traveled through North Carolina during 1791. The story of Betsy Brandon preparing breakfast for him is supposed to be true.

- 24** What is this story **mostly** about?
- A** a girl who helps two men who are lost
 - B** a girl who meets someone important
 - C** a girl who is excited to visit her family
 - D** a girl who meets two old friends

- 25** Which sentence from the story **best** describes Betsy Brandon’s attitude?
- A** “Betsy had to stay at home to finish the chores.”
 - B** “But Betsy was not one to mope.”
 - C** “Betsy hurried to the front door and peeked out.”
 - D** “As Betsy shook her head, her braids moved back and forth.”

- 26** Read the chart below.



Which detail from the story **best** belongs in the empty box?

- A** The visitor thanks Betsy and starts to leave.
- B** Betsy is teased by the younger children.
- C** The visitor tells Betsy that she will see the president.
- D** Betsy is surprised to hear a rumbling noise outside.

Go On

27 Which of these details is **most** important to the story?

- A** who is riding in the coach
- B** how old Betsy is
- C** why the coach stops
- D** what Betsy fixes for breakfast

28 Which part of the story tells the reader that this event may **really** have happened?

- A** the title of the story
- B** the author of the story
- C** the note at the end of the story
- D** the conversation in the story

STOP



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