



New York State Testing Program

English

Language Arts Test

Listening Selection

Grade **4**

January 12–16, 2009

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.

Acknowledgment CTB/McGraw-Hill LLC is indebted to the following for permission to use material in this book:

“The Bell That Knew the Truth” from *Through the Grapevine* by Martha Hamilton & Mitch Weiss, copyright © 2001 by Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss, published by August House Publishers, Inc. Used by permission of Marian Reiner.



Developed and published under contract with the New York State Education Department by CTB/McGraw-Hill LLC, a subsidiary of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., 20 Ryan Ranch Road, Monterey, California 93940-5703. Copyright © 2009 by the New York State Education Department. Permission is hereby granted for school administrators and educators to reproduce these materials, located online at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa>, in the quantities necessary for their school's use, but not for sale, provided copyright notices are retained as they appear in these publications. This permission does not apply to distribution of these materials, electronically or by other means, other than for school use.

The Bell That Knew the Truth

A Story from China

Long ago, on the southeastern coast of China, there lived a wise judge named Chen. He was known not only for his great sense of justice, but also for his clever solutions to difficult problems. This is the story of one of his most famous trials.

There had been a robbery in Judge Chen's village. The sheriff and his men questioned several suspects, but they couldn't figure out who was guilty. So they brought the men before Judge Chen, hoping he could solve the mystery.

Most of the villagers packed the courtroom to see how Judge Chen would handle the problem. Much to everyone's amazement, he didn't ask the suspects a single question. Instead, he ordered, "Fetch the bell from our local temple. It has magical powers. With its help, I will determine who the thief is."

The bell was soon brought into the courtroom and placed behind a curtain. Judge Chen then addressed the court. "This bell will now conduct the trial. It has the ability to tell the guilty from the innocent. If an innocent hand touches the bell, nothing will happen. However, if the hands of a thief touch it, it will ring. I want each suspect to step forward, place his hands behind the curtain, and touch the bell. Those who are innocent have nothing to fear."

Although it seemed unlikely that a bell could have magical powers, the spectators in the court kept silent. When they had doubted Judge Chen in the past, he had always proven them wrong.

One by one, the suspects put their hands behind the curtain. The tension in the room grew as the bell remained silent. Finally, the last man put his hands behind the curtain and then removed them. Still, the bell made no sound.

There was a great uproar in the court. The people wondered if their wise judge had made a mistake and the bell wasn't magical after all. On the other hand, maybe the bell didn't ring because all the suspects were innocent.

Go On

Judge Chen raised his hand to quiet the courtroom. “Order in the court! This trial is not yet over.” He then turned and spoke to the suspects. “If you are innocent, raise both hands.”

Though it seemed like an odd command, all the suspects did as he ordered. Judge Chen then pointed to one man and said, “This is the thief!”

“But the bell didn’t ring when I touched it!” the man protested.

“It is true that the bell didn’t ring,” replied Judge Chen. “However, it’s also true that *you* are guilty. We now have proof that you did *not* touch the bell, for it was covered with ink. All the other suspects obviously touched it, since their hands are dirty. It was your clean hands that gave you away. You were afraid the bell would ring if you touched it. The bell may not be magical, but it did tell the truth.”

The thief was then led away. Once again, the people marveled at the great wisdom of Judge Chen.

STOP



Grade 4
English Language Arts Test
Listening Selection
January 12–16, 2009

The McGraw-Hill Companies
