



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

**English**

**Language Arts Test**

**Listening Selection**

Grade

**5**

**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*****Peach-Basket Ball Game***

*by Mary Petersen*

**What do peach baskets have to do with one of our favorite sports?**

A cold winter wind blows hard. It stings your face and bites your fingertips. It's time to think of something fun to do indoors.

It was the winter of 1891. James Naismith was teaching gym class at a men's school in Springfield, Massachusetts. The students were tired of winter. They groaned while doing their exercises. They picked on one another. They talked too loudly to hear the directions they were given. Mr. Naismith had to find a way to get their attention.

Mr. Naismith asked the school's janitor for two boxes. He would use them as goals in a game he had made up. The janitor could only find two peach baskets.

Mr. Naismith nailed the peach baskets to the balcony above the school's gym floor. The height was 10 feet. He divided his students into two teams. One team would try to get the ball into the basket on one side of the gym. The other team would use the other basket.

Mr. Naismith didn't give the game a name, but he did have rules for it. Players could not run with the ball. When a player got the ball, he had to pass it to a teammate right away. Players could not push, trip, or hit one another. Those who did received a foul. If a team made three fouls in a row, the other team got a point.

There were no holes in the bottoms of the peach baskets. So when a ball went into the basket, it stayed there. Someone had to climb a ladder to get the ball out. The first time the game was played, only one point was scored.

Mr. Naismith used a whistle to remind his students to pass the ball. They kept forgetting that part of the game, so he blew his whistle a lot!

**Go On**

The students liked the game. They wanted to play it again and again. They showed other people how to play it, too. People made changes to the original game. For example, the bottoms were cut out of the peach baskets. After the ball went through, the game kept going.

Does this game sound familiar? A few years after it was invented, James Naismith's game became known as *basketball*.

A teacher's idea became the beginning of a popular sport. Now basketball can be played indoors or outdoors, in summer or winter, by both boys and girls, and by children and grown-ups everywhere.

**STOP**









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