



New York State Testing Program

English

Language Arts

Book 1

Grade

7

Sample Test 2005

Name _____

TIPS FOR TAKING THE SAMPLE 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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“Why Grandfather Frog Has No Tail” by Thornton Burgess, from www.gutenberg.net.

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D *irections*

In this part of the test, you will do some reading and answer questions about what you have read. For the multiple-choice questions, you will mark your answers on the answer sheet. For questions 8 and 15, you will write your answers directly in the test book.

Go On

Directions

Read this passage about a young woman who is about to compete in her first skating marathon. Then answer questions 1 through 8.



My First Marathon

by Leslie Hall

Wednesday 10/22/03

Only a few days left before the skating marathon! It doesn't seem real yet. I am getting ready in every way I can.

Up until this week, I have been adding miles to my training sessions. Last Saturday, I skated over 30 miles. That is the most I have ever skated at one time. The next day, I was a little tired and sore, but it made me feel confident that I am ready for the 26-mile marathon course. Now I am cutting back on the number of miles to make sure I am rested. I have also been going for leisurely skates, rather than working on speed.

I fly to Pasco, Washington, tomorrow afternoon, so tonight I will be packing and doing all of the last-minute chores.

To Do

- Check weather forecast
- Pack clothes
- Pack skate gear (helmet, knee pads, elbow pads, and wrist guards)
- Clean skate bearings
- Check brake and replace if necessary
- Buy spare set of wheels
- Pack emergency kit

I'm taking tools, spare bearings, and a spare brake—I probably won't need any of it, but I'm going to be prepared for any Pasco fiasco! That one time in Monterey taught me to always carry an emergency kit. A screw had popped off my skate when I was careening downhill. Fortunately, there was a lawn nearby, so I bailed out without any damage. The nearest sporting goods store was 5 miles away, so I had to improvise. The auto parts store had the replacement I needed, but it still meant a 2-mile walk in bare feet.

I'm also going to go online to look at the weather forecast, so I'll know which clothes to pack. As long as there's no rain, I'll be happy. Polyurethane wheels slide on a wet surface, which can only mean disaster—and lots of bruises.

Thursday 10/23/03

I admit that I love going to new places, but I don't always like what I have to do to get there. After spending most of the day waiting in airports and sitting on planes, I am looking forward to a long skate tomorrow.

The last plane trip into Pasco from Seattle was the nicest leg of the journey—I sat next to a woman who reminded me of my grandmother. I liked her all the more because she was impressed that I was going to compete in a marathon. Trying to be modest, I said that skating a marathon was comparable to running about half the distance, and she said, “Yes, but how many people can go out and run 12 miles?”

She also said that she admired the way I had set a goal and worked toward it. I'd never thought of my training that way—I had been so focused on training that I hadn't even thought about how hard I had worked to get to the marathon. But she is right—three months ago, I would have laughed if anyone had suggested that I skate 26 miles, let alone 30.

Friday 10/24/03

I dragged my friend Clarissa out for a skate. It was warm, but so windy we were tempted to turn around. The wind was our friend on the way back, though.

Unlike me, Clarissa is a sprinter—she has a faster natural stride, but skated only 5 miles, about half the distance I did. I was trying to convince her to sign up for the marathon, but she doubts she has the stamina.

Saturday 10/25/03

Today I decided to carbo load. I've read that eating lots of carbohydrates the night before a race can give your body extra stores of energy, so we went out for a dinner that included French fries and a gooey dessert. This was after skating another 10 miles, so I didn't feel too guilty.

Sunday 10/26/03

Today is the day! Wish me luck!

LATER:

I did it! My time was 2 hours and 15 minutes. I would have come in about 10 minutes faster, but I took a wrong turn and added a mile at the very end. But I met my goal of maintaining a place in the middle of the pack. There were lots of skaters who came in before me, and even more who came in after me.

When we were lining up at the starting line, I felt nervous and even a little intimidated by all of the high-tech racing gear and skates. All of the other skaters were dressed in the kind of spandex outfits that bicycle racers wear, while I was wearing baggy shorts and a T-shirt. They had “personal hydration systems,” which were basically lightweight backpacks equipped with a water pouch and drinking tube. Some even had rearview mirrors, which were round mirrors attached to wristbands. But the interesting thing is that the impressive equipment did not necessarily mean those skaters would skate faster!

I guess it's time to set a new goal. Maybe I can beat this time at the next marathon—I hear there's one in Arizona in November.

Go On

1 Information in the passage suggests that the narrator **mainly** views marathon skating as a

- A** career choice
- B** challenging activity
- C** healthy exercise plan
- D** way to make new friends

2 Read this sentence from the passage.

I'm taking tools, spare bearings, and a spare brake—I probably won't need any of it, but I'm going to be prepared for any Pasco fiasco!

This sentence suggests that the narrator is very

- F** forgetful
- G** hurried
- H** organized
- J** patient

3 After the conversation with the woman on the plane, the narrator realizes

- A** how much she enjoys skating
- B** the significance of her achievements
- C** the value of different kinds of friendship
- D** how much she values the approval of others

4 Read this statement from the passage.

But she is right—three months ago, I would have laughed if anyone had suggested that I skate 26 miles, let alone 30.

In the sentence, the narrator expresses feelings of

- F** compassion
- G** doubt
- H** pity
- J** satisfaction

5 The journal format **mainly** helps the reader understand the passage by

- A** presenting personal reflections of the events
- B** developing a sense of anticipation
- C** creating a setting that is familiar to the reader
- D** eliminating the need for specific details

6 Based on information in the passage, readers can conclude that the narrator will **most likely**

- F** become a professional skater
- G** offer skating lessons to children
- H** open a store to sell skating gear
- J** compete in another skating marathon

7

This passage would appeal **most** to a reader interested in

- A reading a tale of fantasy
- B learning about skating gear
- C reading a tale of accomplishment
- D learning about professional skating

8

Read these sentences from the passage.

I dragged my friend Clarissa out for a skate. It was warm, but so windy we were tempted to turn around. The wind was our friend on the way back, though.

Use details from the passage to explain what the author **most likely** means when she describes the wind as a “friend.”

Go On

Frederick Law Olmsted

Frederick Law Olmsted was born on April 26, 1822, and grew to become nineteenth-century America's number one landscape architect. Bad eyesight forced him to abandon his plans to attend university, so he had to choose a new course for his life. As a boy in Hartford, Connecticut, he had always admired natural beauty. So, instead of studying academics, he decided instead to focus on engineering and farming. In the 1850s, he ended up in charge of creating Central Park in New York City.



Central Park as it looks today.

Olmsted and a partner entered a design contest for a new park and won with a design patterned after gardens and natural sights that Olmsted had admired around the world. To create the new park, they shifted nearly 5 million cubic yards of dirt, blasted rock with 260 tons of gunpowder, and planted 270,000 trees and shrubs. In 1864, New Yorkers could stroll along wooded paths, paddle a boat around the lake, or people-watch from terraces. Today, many people cannot imagine New York City without its Central Park.

Maybe it was watching those people enjoy his creation that inspired Olmsted. He became one of the first commissioners of Yosemite National Park because he was determined to protect its breathtaking beauty. He did the same for Niagara Falls and helped turn it into a public reserve. Working well into his seventies, Olmsted designed more parks and even an entire Chicago suburb, Riverside. And to think that bad eyesight led him to create such beautiful places.

9

According to information in the article, the **main** benefit of Frederick Law Olmsted's extensive travels was that they

- A gave him new ideas for project designs
- B taught him to rely on others for support
- C reminded him of his love for his home town
- D encouraged him to correct his poor eyesight

10

Which feature would Frederick Law Olmsted **most likely** have thought important to include in a park?

- F outdoor theater
- G flower gardens
- H basketball court
- J concession stands

11

Look at the outline below.

Frederick Law Olmsted

I. Became landscape architect

- A. Created Central Park
- B. Became commissioner of Yosemite National Park
- C. _____
- D. Designed Chicago suburb

Based on information in the article, choose the phrase that belongs in the outline.

- A Planted 270,000 trees and shrubs
- B Studied engineering and farming
- C Turned Niagara Falls into a public reserve
- D Shifted nearly 5 million cubic yards of dirt

Go On

- 12** Based on information in the article, readers can conclude that Frederick Law Olmsted was
- F** hard-working
 - G** smooth-talking
 - H** snobbish
 - J** unreliable

- 13** With which statement would Frederick Law Olmsted **most likely** agree?
- A** Funding for public parks should be reduced.
 - B** It is a waste of time to enter drawing contests.
 - C** Everyone must earn a college degree to succeed.
 - D** Beautiful parts of the natural land should be preserved.

- 14** Look at the sample index below.

<p>Olmsted, Frederick Law 75–88 childhood 75–76 conservation 87–88 education 77–78 projects 79–83</p>

On which pages would you **most likely** find more information on Frederick Law Olmsted's design for Central Park?

- F** 75–76
- G** 77–78
- H** 79–83
- J** 87–88

15

How does the article show that Frederick Law Olmsted loved beautiful things? Use details from the article to support your answer.

Go On

Directions

Read this story. Then answer questions 16 through 24.

Why Grandfather Frog Has No Tail

by Thornton Burgess

Old Mother West Wind had gone to her day's work, leaving all the Merry Little Breezes to play in the Green Meadows. They had played tag and run races with the Bees and played hide and seek with the Sun Beams, and now they had gathered around the Smiling Pool, where on a green lily pad, sat Grandfather Frog.

Grandfather Frog was old—very old, indeed—and very, very wise. He wore a green coat and his voice was very deep. When Grandfather Frog spoke, everybody listened very respectfully. Even Billy Mink treated Grandfather Frog with respect, for Billy Mink's father and his father's father could not remember when Grandfather Frog had not sat on the lily pad watching for green flies.

Down in the Smiling Pool were some of Grandfather Frog's great-great-great-great-great-grandchildren. You wouldn't have known that they were his grandchildren unless someone told you. They didn't look the least bit like Grandfather Frog.

"Oh Grandfather Frog, tell us why you don't have a tail as you did when you were young," begged one of the Merry Little Breezes.

Grandfather Frog snapped up a foolish green fly and settled himself on his big lily pad, while all the Merry Little Breezes gathered round to listen.

"Once upon a time," began Grandfather Frog, "the Frogs ruled the world, which was mostly water. There was very little dry land—oh, very little indeed! There were no boys to throw stones and no hungry Mink to gobble up foolish Frog-babies who were taking a sun bath!"

Billy Mink, who had joined the Merry Little Breezes and was listening, squirmed uneasily and looked away guiltily.

"In those days all the Frogs had tails, long handsome tails of which they were very, very proud indeed," continued Grandfather Frog. "The King of all the Frogs was twice as big as any other Frog, and his tail was three times as long. He was very proud—oh, very proud indeed—of his long tail. He used to sit and admire it until he thought that there never had been and never could be another such tail. He used to wave it back and forth in the water, and every time he waved it, all the other Frogs would cry, 'Ah!' and 'Oh!' Every day the King grew more vain. He did nothing at all but eat and sleep and admire his tail.

"Now all the other Frogs did just as the King did, so pretty soon none of the Frogs were doing anything but sitting about eating, sleeping, and admiring their own tails and the King's.

"When Mother Nature saw how useless the Frog tribe had become, she called the King Frog

before her and she said:

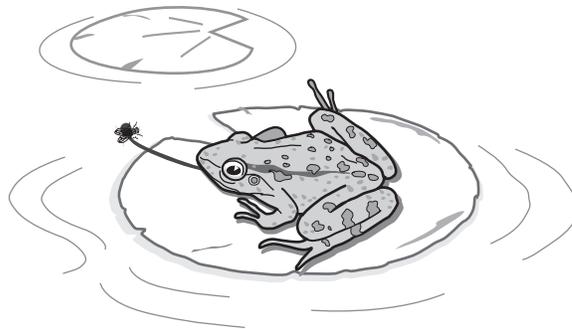
‘Because you can think of nothing but your beautiful tail, it shall be taken away from you. Because you do nothing but eat and sleep, your mouth shall become wide like a door, and your eyes shall start forth from your head. You shall become bow-legged and ugly to look at, and all the world shall laugh at you.’

“The King Frog looked at his beautiful tail, and already it seemed to have grown shorter. He looked again, and it was shorter still. Every time he looked, his tail had grown shorter and smaller. By and by when he looked, there was nothing left but a little stub, which he couldn’t even wriggle. Then even that disappeared, his eyes popped out of his head, and his mouth grew bigger and bigger.”

Old Grandfather Frog stopped and looked sadly at a foolish green fly coming his way. “Chug-arum,” said Grandfather Frog, opening his mouth very wide and hopping up in the air. When he sat down again on his big lily pad, the green fly was nowhere to be seen. Grandfather Frog smacked his lips and continued:

“And from that day to this, every Frog has started life with a big tail, and as he has grown bigger and bigger, his tail has grown smaller and smaller, until finally it disappears, and then he remembers how foolish and useless it is to be vain about what nature has given us. And that is how I came to lose my tail,” finished Grandfather Frog.

“Thank you,” shouted all the Merry Little Breezes. “We won’t forget.”



- 16** Which of these statements **best** expresses the theme of the story?
- F** Real beauty is found by looking inward.
 - G** It is foolish to overly admire one’s own beauty.
 - H** True knowledge is acquired through experience.
 - J** It is important to listen to the advice of one’s elders.

- 17** The mood the author creates in the first paragraph of the story is **best** described as
- A** restless
 - B** carefree
 - C** gloomy
 - D** suspenseful

Go On

18 Which word **best** describes King Frog?

- F** conceited
- G** demanding
- H** generous
- J** knowledgeable

19 Read this sentence from the story.

Billy Mink, who had joined the Merry Little Breezes and was listening, squirmed uneasily and looked away guiltily.

Billy Mink **most likely** behaves this way because he is

- A** bored by Grandfather Frog’s lengthy story
- B** angry that Grandfather Frog is ignoring him
- C** aware that Grandfather Frog is upset with him
- D** embarrassed by Grandfather Frog’s comments

20 Why does Mother Nature change the appearance of the Frog tribe?

- F** She enjoys using her powers.
- G** She is jealous of their long tails.
- H** She is disappointed in their behavior.
- J** She wants to draw more attention to herself.

21 The story “Why Grandfather Frog Has No Tail” is told from the point of view of

- A** a young frog
- B** Mother West Wind
- C** an outside narrator
- D** Grandfather Frog

22 Read these sentences from the story.

“He used to sit and admire it until he thought that there never had been and never could be another such tail. He used to wave it back and forth in the water, and every time he waved it, all the other Frogs would cry, ‘Ah!’ and ‘Oh!’”

In this description, the author suggests the other Frogs feel

- F** confused
- G** impressed
- H** worried
- J** surprised

23

According to Grandfather Frog’s story, the **main** reason Mother Nature took away the Frogs’ tails was because the Frogs

- A** ate too many flies
- B** had become too bow-legged
- C** spent too much time sleeping
- D** had become too proud of themselves

24

Read this sentence from the story.

“And from that day to this, every Frog has started life with a big tail, and as he has grown bigger and bigger, his tail has grown smaller and smaller, until finally it disappears, and then he remembers how foolish and useless it is to be vain about what nature has given us.”

Now study this dictionary entry.

vain *adj.* 1. Having no real value or to be worthless. 2. Without force or to lack effect. 3. Having an inflated sense of self-importance or to be conceited. 4. Without wisdom or to be foolish.

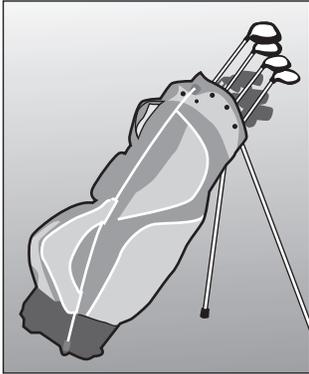
Which is the correct definition of “vain” as it is used in the sentence above?

- F** definition 1
- G** definition 2
- H** definition 3
- J** definition 4

Go On

Directions

Read this article about Chi Chi Rodriguez. Then answer questions 25 through 28.



Chi Chi Rodriguez

by Carol Flynn Harris

Like many young boys in Rio Pedras, Puerto Rico, Juan Rodriguez Jr. loved to play baseball. He dreamed about playing professional ball like his hero, Chi Chi Flores.

“I am Chi Chi Flores!” Juan shouted so often that his friends nicknamed him “Chi Chi.”

Chi Chi Rodriguez always loved to make people laugh. But even as a young boy he also worked hard to earn money. When he was seven, he drove oxen in the sugar cane fields, earning a dollar a day. His father, Juan Sr., gave him another nickname: “El Millonario” (the Millionaire) because his young son always looked for better ways to make money.

Chi Chi Rodriguez soon discovered that being a caddy at the local golf course paid more than laboring in the cane fields. When he wasn’t carrying bags, Chi Chi learned to play golf. He changed his mind about being a baseball player; now he dreamed of becoming a professional golfer.

caddy = person hired to carry a player’s clubs and bags

Juan Sr. didn’t encourage his son’s dream. “Golf is for rich people!” he would say. “Forget about becoming ‘El Millonario.’ Just work hard. Share what you have. Above all, be happy.”

Chi Chi respected his father, but he continued to play golf. Soon he was playing better than the men he caddied for. He also continued to make people laugh with stories and funny tricks. But as Chi Chi grew older, he became restless. Golf was fun, but it wasn’t a paying job. He didn’t want to spend his life toiling in the cane fields, so at nineteen he joined the Army. Fortunately for Chi Chi, the Army had a golf team and he became his Army Post’s champion.

After his discharge from the Army, he got a job at a golf course and spent hours perfecting his game. He spent longer hours at night, working in a hospital and washing dishes to earn extra money. His determination and skill finally enabled him to join the Professional Golf Association (PGA). He was Puerto Rico’s first touring golf pro. Fans loved him, and Chi Chi loved to entertain the fans (he was well known for doing a “sword dance” with his golf clubs).

In just a few years, Chi Chi earned the nickname his father had given him, “El Millonario.” But somehow fame and fortune were not enough to make Chi Chi happy. He wanted to help children who didn’t have families like his, so he started the Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation. The Youth Foundation’s center in Florida teaches job and life skills to young people who are poor, abused, or in trouble.

Chi Chi had eight victories on the PGA tour, and has gone on to win twenty-two tournaments on the Senior Tour. He still enjoys playing, but spends more time helping kids all across the country. He holds golf clinics to raise money for his Youth Foundation, and he teaches golf to inner-city children. Chi Chi still makes people laugh. But when he gets serious, the kids listen. “Stay in school,” he says. “I didn’t, but I’m one of the lucky ones. The harder I worked, the luckier I got! If I can make it, anyone can!”

- 25** Why did Chi Chi first become a golf caddy?
- A** It allowed him to play golf every day.
 - B** His favorite hero was a professional golfer.
 - C** It paid better than working in the cane fields.
 - D** His father thought it was a good way to earn money.

- 26** Juan Sr. reacted to Chi Chi’s dream of playing golf by
- F** paying for Chi Chi to take golf lessons
 - G** telling Chi Chi to study harder at school
 - H** suggesting that Chi Chi stick with baseball
 - J** saying that Chi Chi was too poor to play golf

- 27** Read this sentence from the article.

He didn’t want to spend his life toiling in the cane fields, so at nineteen he joined the Army.

In this sentence, “toiling” means about the same as

- A** running
- B** working
- C** laughing
- D** talking

- 28** Why did Chi Chi probably start the Youth Foundation?

- F** His family inspired him to want to help others.
- G** His fans expected him to be more than just funny.
- H** He wanted to teach young people to play baseball.
- J** He had nothing to do after he retired from playing golf.

STOP



Grade 7
English Language Arts
Book 1
Sample Test 2005

The McGraw-Hill Companies