



New York State Testing Program

**English
Language Arts
Book 2**

Grade **8**

January 17–20, 2006

Name _____



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 writing your response.

This test asks you to write about what you have listened to or read.

Your writing will NOT be scored on your personal opinions. It WILL be scored on:

- how clearly you organize and express your ideas
- how accurately and completely you answer the questions
- how well you support your ideas with examples
- how interesting and enjoyable your writing is
- how correctly you use grammar, spelling, punctuation, and paragraphs



Whenever you see this symbol, be sure to plan and check your writing.

Listening and Writing

D *irections*

In this part of the test, you will listen to an article called “The Parrot Who Says He’s Sorry (and Means It, Maybe).” Then you will answer some questions to show how well you understood what was read.

You will listen to the article twice. As you listen carefully, you may take notes on the article anytime you wish during the readings. You may use these notes to answer the questions that follow. Use the space on Pages 2 and 3 for your notes.

Go On



Notes



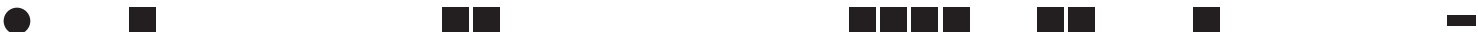
Notes

STOP

■ SECURE MATERIAL ■
Do not reproduce. Do not discuss contents
until end of designated makeup schedule.

Book 2

Page 3



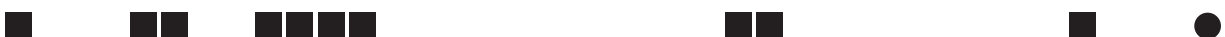
27

In the chart below, describe **two** things that Alex the parrot has learned. Then explain how Dr. Pepperberg knows Alex actually understands this information.

What Alex has learned		Proof that Alex understands the information
1.		
2.		

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The expression “to parrot” is explained at the beginning of the article. Compare the meaning of this expression with what Alex does. Use details from the article to support your answer.



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What do you think was the author’s purpose in writing “The Parrot Who Says He’s Sorry”? Circle your choice. Explain your choice using details from the article.

to inform

to entertain

to persuade

Go On



Planning Page

You may PLAN your writing for question 30 here if you wish, but do NOT write your final answer on this page. Your writing on this Planning Page will NOT count toward your final score. Write your final answer on Pages 7 and 8.



Place Student Label Here



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