



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

**English**

**Language Arts Test**

**Listening Selection**

Grade

**3**

**January 8–12, 2007**

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*****The Missing Horse***

*by Ann Devendorf*

Once there lived a farmer who had seven horses. One day he said to his wife, “I think I will ride out and look for our horses. I have not seen them for a long, long time.”

“That is a good idea,” said his wife. “We must take good care of our horses, especially when the weather is cold and snowy.”

The farmer went to the barn and put a saddle on Old Blue. Then he rode into the hills.

He rode west. He did not find his horses.

He rode north. He did not find his horses.

He rode east. He did not find his horses.

He rode south. He did find his horses.

He counted them. “One, two, three, four, five, six.” Then he frowned and said, “There are only six horses. I must keep riding and look for the other horse.”

He rode west again. He did not find the missing horse.

He rode north again. He did not find the missing horse.

He rode east again. He did not find the missing horse.

He rode south again. Once again he saw his horses.

He counted them. “One, two, three, four, five, six.” By now the sun was down, and it was cold. So the farmer called “Giddap” to Old Blue, and they trotted home.

“Did you find the horses?” asked his wife.

“One is missing,” said the farmer.

**Go On**

“I hope the horse is OK,” said the farmer’s wife.

“I hope so, too,” said the farmer as he took the saddle from Old Blue’s back. “Tomorrow I will ride to the neighbors and ask them if they have seen a stray horse.”

“Yes,” said his wife, “that is a good idea.”

The next day, the farmer rode to the neighbors. He rode east and west. He rode north and south. No one had seen a stray horse. He rode home.

“Has anyone seen the missing horse?” asked his wife.

“No,” said the farmer, with a shake of his head.

“Maybe you missed one when you were counting,” said the farmer’s wife.

“No,” said the farmer. “I saw six horses. My count was correct.”

“You saw six horses?” asked the farmer’s wife, in surprise.

“Yes,” said the farmer. “Six horses.”

“What are you riding?” asked the farmer’s wife.

“A horse!” shouted the farmer. “I am riding the seventh horse!”

“Yes,” said the farmer’s wife, with a smile.

The farmer laughed and laughed at himself. He laughed so loud and hard that he scared Old Blue into a gallop.

“That will teach me to forget you,” said the farmer to Old Blue as they galloped merrily around the yard.

**STOP**









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