



New York State Testing Program

English

Language Arts Test

Book 1

Grade **4**

April 26–28, 2010

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 choosing your response.

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Reading***D***irections

In this part of the test, you are going to do some reading. Then you will answer questions about what you have read.

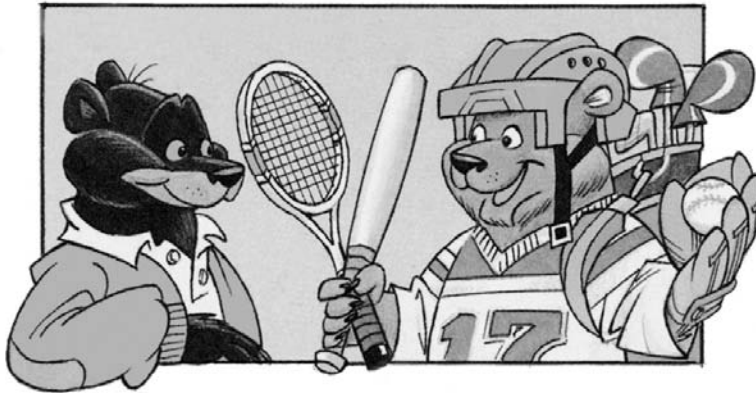
Go On

Directions

Read this story. Then answer questions 1 through 6.

Belly Flops and Gutter Balls

by JoLynne Ricker Whalen
illustrated by Rocky Fuller



Lewis loved sports. He watched them on TV. He listened to them on the radio. He read about them in the newspaper.

One day, Lewis decided that he wanted to be an athlete. “I want to find a sport that I’m good at,” he said.

“I will help you find one,” said his friend Kirby.

They went to the golf course. Lewis picked up a golf club and placed the ball on the tee. He swung the club hard, but he missed the ball entirely. A clump of grass flew into the air and landed on Kirby’s head.

“Golf is not for me,” said Lewis.

They went to the swimming pool. Lewis climbed the ladder and stood on the diving board. He took five running steps and sprang into the air. He hit the water with a stinging smack!

Kirby got soaked.

“Diving is not for me,” said Lewis.

They went to the bowling alley. Lewis held the bowling ball and faced the pins. He hopped and skipped, then let the ball go. It bounced into the next lane and rolled into the gutter.

“Bowling is not for me,” said Lewis.

They went to the tennis courts. Lewis tossed the ball into the air and hit it with the racket. The tennis ball flew right into the net.

“Tennis is not for me,” said Lewis.

Lewis loved sports. He wanted to learn the basics. He wanted to feel the excitement. He wanted to enjoy the thrill of winning. Lewis did not give up.

They went to the beach. Lewis hopped on a surfboard and caught the waves. He swerved to the left, leaned to the right, and tumbled off the board.

“Surfing is not for me,” said Lewis.

Lewis tried volleyball, hockey, skiing, and soccer. He tried boxing, fishing, football, and wrestling. He tried track, basketball, table tennis, and archery. Who would have thought that finding a sport would be so difficult?

Lewis sighed. “I’ve tried everything,” he said. “And I’m not good at anything.”

Kirby agreed. Lewis had made every possible mistake in every sport!

“But, Lewis, you’ve only tried each sport once,” said Kirby. “A good athlete needs practice.”

“Practice?” asked Lewis. “You mean I won’t be good right away?”

“That’s right,” answered Kirby.

Lewis smiled. “Well, I’d better start practicing!”

Go On

1

This story is **mostly** about how

- A** being good at sports takes practice
- B** playing sports with a friend can be fun
- C** being an athlete means trying many sports
- D** playing sports is better than watching sports

2

Read this chart about the story.

Sport Lewis Tries	What Happens
Golfing	He misses the ball entirely.
Diving	?
Bowling	He throws the ball into the wrong lane.

Which statement **best** completes the chart?

- A** He falls on the board and breaks it.
- B** He slips off the wet ladder.
- C** He hits the water with a smack.
- D** He climbs the ladder but just stands there.

3

What brings Lewis **closest** to his goal in the story?

- A** trying sports with a friend
- B** listening to sports on the radio
- C** reading about sports in the newspaper
- D** watching sports programs on television

4 Which statement about Lewis **best** tells what this story is about?

- A** Lewis reads the newspaper.
- B** Lewis tries different sports.
- C** Lewis makes a diving mistake.
- D** Lewis holds a bowling ball.

5 Why does the author **most likely** include Kirby in the story?

- A** to show Lewis how to follow rules
- B** to explain to Lewis the importance of exercise
- C** to help Lewis become an athlete
- D** to tell Lewis what sports mistakes to avoid

6 Read these sentences from the story.

Lewis hopped on a surfboard and caught the waves. He swerved to the left, leaned to the right, and tumbled off the board.

The word “tumbled” in the second sentence **most likely** means

- A** fell
- B** jumped
- C** stepped
- D** turned

Go On

Directions

Read this article. Then answer questions 7 through 12.

The Dragon Hunter

by Keith Wilson



I am a dragon hunter. Dragonflies, that is! My name is Keith Wilson. I'm an odonatologist. That's a scientist who studies dragonflies. I don't hunt to kill. I hunt to discover. So far, I have helped to find many new species, or kinds, of dragonflies.

Flying Colors

About 5,500 dragonfly species buzz around the world. Hunting them is not easy. Many of them live deep in rain forests. To find them, I have to walk through thick bushes. I have to put up with leeches. They are worms that drink blood. I even have to watch out for hungry crocodiles.

So why do I look for dragonflies? The answer is simple. I love them! They can speed by. They can make sharp turns and sudden stops. They can hover. They can even fly backward.

hover = stay still
in the air

Best of all, dragonflies are beautiful. They come in many colors and patterns. Who doesn't like looking at these amazing insects?

* * *

Super Sizes

Dragonflies come in many sizes. The smallest one is the size of your thumbnail. The largest one would cover your face.

I recently looked for the heaviest dragonfly in the world—the giant petaltail. It lives in Australia.

You might think such a large bug would be hard to miss. The petaltail, however, is very rare. Few people have ever seen it. After looking for a week, I spotted several of them zooming around.

Built to Hunt

The hungry petaltails were hunting. Dragonflies are built to hunt. They have two compound eyes. Each eye is made of 30,000 smaller eyes.

All those eyes help a dragonfly see everything. A dragonfly can spot a tasty meal from up to 18 feet away.

Dragonflies have six legs. The insect cannot walk on its legs, however. It uses its four wings to get around. It soars through the sky at 30 miles an hour, looking for prey.

From Water to Air

A dragonfly begins its life underwater. It hatches from an egg and becomes a larva. A larva is a young dragonfly. It can swim, but it cannot fly.

A larva lives in a lake or stream. It can grow for several years. Then it crawls out of the water. It sheds its hard skin and becomes an adult.

An adult dragonfly doesn't have much flying time. Some adults live for only a few weeks. Others are around for several months. During that time, a dragonfly is very busy. It flies. It hunts. It eats. If the dragonfly is female, it also lays eggs. Soon there will be more young dragonflies.

Dragonflies in Danger

I worry about dragonflies. People are cutting down forests where the bugs live. That could cause some species to die out. I want to protect these tiny dragons for others to see and enjoy.

- 7** What is this article **mostly** about?
- A** the life of dragonflies
 - B** how to protect dragonflies
 - C** how to photograph dragonflies
 - D** the colors of dragonflies

- 8** According to the article, what can an adult dragonfly do?
- A** live for years
 - B** fly backward
 - C** walk on legs
 - D** swim in water

Go On

9

Which fact from the article **best** describes how dragonflies are different from each other?

- A** A dragonfly is built to hunt.
- B** The larva of a dragonfly lives in water.
- C** A dragonfly can fly up to thirty miles per hour.
- D** The smallest dragonfly is the size of a thumbnail.

10

According to the article, what is the **best** way to keep dragonflies from disappearing?

- A** Teach young dragonflies how to fly.
- B** Find an easier way to track dragonflies.
- C** Raise dragonflies that can walk on their legs.
- D** Stop cutting down forests where dragonflies live.

11

Which detail from the article **best** supports the idea that dragonflies are built to hunt?

- A** They have six legs.
- B** They have compound eyes.
- C** They begin life underwater.
- D** They are colorful.

12

After reading this article, what could the reader conclude about dragonflies?

- A** Some dragonflies are in danger.
- B** Dragonflies are easy to find.
- C** Dragonflies look like tiny dragons.
- D** Some dragonflies can be pests.

Directions

Read this story. Then answer questions 13 through 17.

Naming Our Puppy

by Mark Merfeld



“This is a lot harder than I thought it would be,” I said. “We’ve been trying to find a name for *No-name* for a week now.”

“Why is it so hard, Brian?” asked Mom. “You and Tanya have probably suggested a hundred names.”

“It has to be the right name,” said my little sister, Tanya. “We don’t want *No-name* stuck with a bad name his whole life.”

“All I know is you can’t keep calling him *No-name*,” Mom said. “So today’s the day. You have to agree on a name for the puppy today. Now let’s go outside and play with him. Maybe he’ll name himself.”

As we stepped outside, Tanya screamed, “Look out!”

The small, black puppy dashed across the wooden deck and slid into my feet. He stood on his back legs and scratched excitedly at my shins. As soon as I reached down to pet him, he gave me a dozen quick licks with his tongue. Then he was off to jump on my mom.

“Boy, you sure are a little bundle of energy,” Mom said. “Maybe we should call you *Tornado*.”

“How about *Hurricane*?” Tanya asked. “We could call him *Hurry* for short.”

The puppy’s timing was perfect. As soon as Tanya finished her sentence, he hurried off the deck into the tall grass in the back yard. Suddenly, he stopped. Something had caught his eye. He charged into the flowerbed and pounced on some purple pansies. A butterfly escaped and fluttered above his nose.

Go On

The puppy chased after it, yapping as he made clumsy little leaps into the air. As he scrambled up the steps, he tripped on the last one and landed on his chin. He shook his head and continued his chase across the deck. When the butterfly flew off to the side, the puppy tried to turn. The deck was like a wooden ice rink to *No-name*, and his furry, oversized feet slid out from under him. He skidded and flipped over on his side.

We were all laughing so hard that we couldn't grab him as he got up and ran into the yard again.

"There he goes again," Tanya said with a giggle. *No-name* was hopping through the tall grass after two more butterflies. "He sure likes those butterflies."

"That's it!" I shouted. I ran into the house to get the book I had been reading for school. It was about the Hopi, a Native American tribe in Arizona. In the back of the book was a list of Hopi names and their meanings.

"Look, Mom," I said, pointing at the list. "We've got to call him *Nova*."

"Why? What does it mean?" she asked.

"It means *chases butterflies*," I laughed. "Isn't that perfect?"

Mom and Tanya both nodded and laughed, just as *Nova* made another leap into the flowerbed.

-
- 13** What is this story **mostly** about?
- A** a brother and sister who argue over a puppy's name
 - B** a family trying to think of a name for their puppy
 - C** a brother who wants to rename the family's puppy
 - D** a family looking through books for puppy names

- 14** Why is it taking Tanya and Brian so long to name their puppy?
- A** They like the name he already has.
 - B** They cannot think of any names.
 - C** They want their mother to name the puppy.
 - D** They want the puppy to have the right name.

- 15** Why does Brian run inside to get a book?
- A** He remembers something he read.
 - B** He wants to learn more about butterflies.
 - C** He is going to read a story to his sister.
 - D** He needs to finish his homework.
- 16** Why does the author describe the deck as a “wooden ice rink”?
- A** It is covered with ice.
 - B** It is large like a rink.
 - C** The puppy skates on it.
 - D** The puppy slips on it.
- 17** What will Tanya and Brian **most likely** do the next time they need to name a pet?
- A** They will watch the pet for ideas.
 - B** They will look in a book of names.
 - C** They will ask their mother for help.
 - D** They will choose a name quickly.

Go On

Directions

Read this poem. Then answer questions 18 through 22.

About Abigail

by Gail Manning

Once a little brownish snail
(Her name, I think, was Abigail)
Set out to roam the round world through.
(She took her little brown home, too
As every small brown snail must do.)

First she crossed the garden wall
In hardly any time at all—
An hour at most or was it more,
Twenty-nine or thirty-four?
(Well, with snails, who keeps the score?)

How wide the world!
Would courage fail?
Was she afraid?
Not Abigail!

She spied a stone and reached the spot
Within a week (although she hurried
quite a lot).
But now a bush sat in her way;
Around she crept all night, all day.
It was so nice she circled twice!



Alas! A jay swooped to the grass.
Oh, would he let one brown snail pass?
Alarmed, our friend slid in her shell
And was unharmed till all was well!

And then,
AND THEN,
Now, where was I?
Oh, yes, the grass below, the sky
Beyond, adventure calls.
And so our bold explorer crawls
And crawls and crawls
(A yawn)
And slowly creeps
(More yawns and a stretch)
While I am falling
Fast asleep.

- 18** Which event happens **first** in the poem?
- A** Abigail sees a jay.
 - B** Abigail spies a stone.
 - C** Abigail crosses the garden wall.
 - D** Abigail creeps around a bush.

- 19** Why does Abigail have to carry her home with her?
- A** She is a brown snail.
 - B** She is an explorer.
 - C** She travels at night.
 - D** She hides from birds.

- 20** In the poem, what is Abigail **most** afraid of?
- A** the bush
 - B** the jay
 - C** the garden wall
 - D** the wide world

- 21** What will **most likely** happen if Abigail decides to go back to the garden?
- A** She will get stuck in the bush.
 - B** She will take a long time to get there.
 - C** She will leave her shell behind because it is heavy.
 - D** She will move fast because she knows the way.

- 22** Which event from the poem could **not** really happen?
- A** A snail hides from a jay.
 - B** A snail circles a bush.
 - C** A snail crawls across a garden wall.
 - D** A snail plans to roam the world.

Go On

Directions

Read this article. Then answer questions 23 through 28.

Where Does the Water Go?

by Jacqueline J. Christensen
illustrated by Michael Palan



Have you ever watered a garden and watched the water disappear into the soil? This fun experiment shows how plants take water from the ground to grow. Ask an adult to help you.

You Will Need:

- Medium-sized glass
- Water
- Red food coloring
- Spoon
- 1 celery stalk with leaves

You Will Do:

1. Fill the glass halfway with water.
2. Stir in enough food coloring to make the water dark red.
3. Ask Mom or Dad to cut 1 inch off the bottom of the celery stalk. Place the stalk in the water and let it stand overnight.

What Will Happen:

The leaves will turn red, as well as the tiny tubes running up through the stalk. Break the stalk in half, and you will see red dots in each piece.

Why?

As a plant grows, its roots act like straws, sucking water up into the stem or stalk. Tiny tubes inside the stalk carry water farther up into the leaves. (By coloring the water red, this is easier to see.) The red dots show a cross-section of the tiny tubes through which the water traveled.

- 23** What is this article **mostly** about?
- A** how water protects plants
 - B** how water can change colors
 - C** how celery stalks grow in water
 - D** how plants get water from the ground
- 24** What should you do **right after** filling the glass halfway with water?
- A** Break the stalk in half.
 - B** Place the stalk in the water.
 - C** Stir in food coloring.
 - D** Let the celery stand overnight.
- 25** Which of these items is needed for Step 1 of the experiment?
- A** water
 - B** spoon
 - C** celery stalk
 - D** food coloring

Go On

26 What should you do **right before** letting the stalk stand overnight?

- A** Place the stalk in the water.
- B** Make the water dark red.
- C** Ask an adult to help you.
- D** Break the stalk in half.

27 In which section of the article can you find how the water moves through plants?

- A** “You Will Need”
- B** “You Will Do”
- C** “What Will Happen”
- D** “Why”

28 After reading the article, a reader could conclude that

- A** plants grow faster in red food coloring
- B** water travels upward through plants
- C** most experiments require adult help
- D** many materials are needed for experiments

STOP



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