



New York State Testing Program

English

Language Arts Test

Book 3

Grade

8

January 14–18, 2008

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.

In this test, you will be writing about texts that you will be listening to or reading. Your writing will be scored on

- how clearly you organize your writing and express what you have learned
- how accurately and completely you answer the questions being asked
- how well you support your responses with examples or details from the texts
- how correctly you use grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and paragraphing



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

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“The Youngest of Them All” by W. H. Chip Gross, copyright © 2001 by W. H. Chip Gross. Used by permission.

“Helping Hand” by James Daniels from *Boys’ Life* Magazine’s October 2002 issue, copyright © 2002 by James Daniels. Used by permission.



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Reading and Writing***D***irections

In this part of the test, you are going to read an article called “The Youngest of Them All” and an article called “Helping Hand.” You will answer questions 31 through 34 and write about what you have read. You may look back at the articles as often as you like.

Go On

The Youngest of Them All

by W. H. (Chip) Gross



Adam's winning work of art—a mottled duck

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps are commonly called "Duck Stamps." These pictorial stamps are produced by the U.S. Postal Service for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; however, they are not valid for use as postage. Each waterfowl hunter is required to purchase a stamp and carry it along with a hunting license.

Do you like to draw or paint pictures of wildlife? Adam Grimm does—and he's been doing it since he was your age. Adam is the youngest person to ever win the Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest.

Adam won this famous wildlife art competition when he was just 21 years old. No cash prize is given to the winner, but Adam will make hundreds of thousands of dollars from the sale of copies of his painting.

Duck stamps help wildlife. All waterfowl hunters 16 years old and older must buy a duck stamp before going hunting. The money

from the sale of duck stamps goes to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, used to purchase wetlands for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Besides being a wildlife artist, Adam is an avid waterfowl hunter. He learned to hunt from his father. He says that hunting got him interested in painting wildlife. Adam lives in Elyria, Ohio, along the shores of Lake Erie. One of the five Great Lakes, Lake Erie provides Adam constant opportunities to observe waterfowl.

Adam has a natural art talent, but he has also had to work hard to achieve so much so early in life. "When our kids got into high school," Adam's father said, "we expected them to get summer jobs. Adam's two sisters found work outside the home; we told Adam he could stay home to paint and draw, but he'd have to work at it 40 hours a week, just like any other job."

Adam's choice to stay home and perfect his artwork paid off. In 1996, at age 18, he placed fourth in the federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Contest.

Go On

One year later he was a semi-finalist in the Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp design competition. He followed that with a third place finish in the Ohio contest the next year and a second place finish the year after that, before winning the national contest.

So what would Adam Grimm like to do in the future? Paint wildlife, of course. “Nothing

interests me like nature, the outdoors . . . every kind of wild animal intrigues me.”

Adam believes that his detailed paintings increase people’s awareness of wildlife. “It’s odd how few people actually go outdoors to look at ducks and geese. But when you put those same ducks and geese in paintings—with all the details—people notice.”

31 In the chart below, provide two examples of how Adam Grimm prepared himself to become a successful wildlife artist. Then describe how each example contributed to his success. Use details from the article to support your answer.

How Adam Grimm prepared himself to become a successful wildlife artist		How it contributed to his success
1.		
2.		



Helping Hand

by James Daniels

Michael Schuman didn't know much about Parkinson's disease two years ago. Now, his invention could help people all across the country.

Michael Schuman saw one of his favorite actors, Michael J. Fox, on television one night in May 2000.

Michael [Schuman] was shocked, not entertained. Instead of delivering a one-liner on the sitcom *Spin City*, Fox was telling the world that he has Parkinson's disease. Michael Schuman, 13 at the time, wondered, "What's Parkinson's disease?"

He later found out that more than one million people suffer from the neurological¹ disorder, which is most common in people older than 50. He learned that symptoms can include muscle stiffness and tremors² in the shoulders, arms and hands.

¹neurological: having to do with the nervous system

²tremors: shaking

He learned that even the simplest task can be painful for people in the late stages of Parkinson's.

Michael Schuman wanted to help.

What Could He Do?

Michael's grandfather told him about a glove he'd tried to make once, to keep a bowler's wrist from twisting.

Michael gathered materials—elbow pads for skating, odd pieces of plastic and scraps of fabric—and invented what he called the Parkinson's Glove. His mom and grandmother sewed it together.

The Parkinson's Glove uses a top support bar and a wrist bar to reduce tremors in the arm. It supports the arm and wrist. But it's flexible, so the wearer can move his arm freely.

Go On

The Test

When it was finished, Michael and his family had to see if it would work. They visited Parkinson’s support groups at local hospitals.

Michael says the patients were happy to try anything if it meant help with daily tasks.

Michael handed a woman one spoonful of water. She tried to raise it. Her hand trembled. Measuring what was left, Michael found that she had spilled 10 milliliters of water. Then, they helped her put on the glove, and Michael handed her another spoonful of water.

She lifted it slowly to her lips, lowered it, and handed it back.

This time, only two and a half milliliters were gone. All the patients tried. They spilled, on average, 63 percent less by using the glove, Michael says.

Working With the Expert

Michael recently filed a patent application with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Michael has been making prototypes³ of the glove and sending them to manufacturing companies, trying to make them available to more people.

“Seeing how well it worked, and how people reacted—how it can help people who are struggling with tremors in their everyday lives—made me determined to go on,” Michael says.

Michael also has continued testing the glove for more than a year with Dr. Edward Davis, a neurologist from Fort Myers, Florida. Dr. Davis has studied Parkinson’s and treated patients with the disorder.

“Michael shows humanity through his creativity,” Dr. Davis says.

³prototypes: original models

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Michael Schuman can be described as both determined and sympathetic. Circle the word you think **best** describes him in the article “Helping Hand.”

determined

sympathetic

Explain your choice using details from the article.

33

Explain the purpose of the test Michael Schuman conducted at local hospitals with the Parkinson’s Glove. Use details from the article “Helping Hand” to support your answer.

Go On

Planning Page

You may PLAN your writing for question 34 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 9 and 10.



Place Student Label Here



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