



New York State Testing Program

English

Language Arts Test

Book 3

Grade **4**

April 26–28, 2010

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 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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Reading and Writing**D***irections*

In this part of the test, you are going to read a passage called “From Tadpole to Frog” and a passage called “Butterfly House.” You will answer questions 32 through 35 and write about what you have read. You may look back at the passages as often as you like.

Go On

From Tadpole to Frog

by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld



In the spring, you may see frog eggs in the still water of a pond. Each egg is a ball of clear jelly with a small, dark center.

Hundreds of eggs stick together in a clump called frog spawn. Inside the eggs, tiny tadpoles are growing. At first, they look like small, dark specks. In a few days, little heads and tails take shape. Soon, the tadpoles are big enough to wiggle out of their eggs. After feeding on the jelly of their eggs for a while, the tadpoles wave their tails and swim away. Gills on the outside of a tadpole's body help it breathe underwater.

The tadpole's main job is to eat and grow. Many of the tadpoles will be eaten by hungry bugs, fish, or turtles. But a few escape. They will grow to be frogs.

Tadpoles do not look much like the frogs they will become! A tadpole has a strong tail for swimming. The tadpole has a hard mouth. It uses its mouth to scrape soft plants from the rocks and pebbles in the pond.

After a few weeks, the tadpole has grown two hind legs. And the tadpole's gills have moved inside its body.

Lungs are beginning to form inside the tadpole's body, too. Now and then, it swims up. The tadpole puts its head out of the water. It takes little breaths of air. As the tadpole's lungs grow stronger, its gills shrink away.

Two front legs begin to grow where its gills once were. By the time it is about two months old, the tadpole's mouth has become wider. The tadpole starts to eat small bugs.

For a few more weeks, the tadpole's tail shrinks and shrinks. Now the tadpole's strong legs and its webbed feet help it swim. The tadpole has changed into a small frog!

Soon the little frog will leave the pond. The frog spends much of its time out of the water. But it likes to stay wet, so it does not go far.

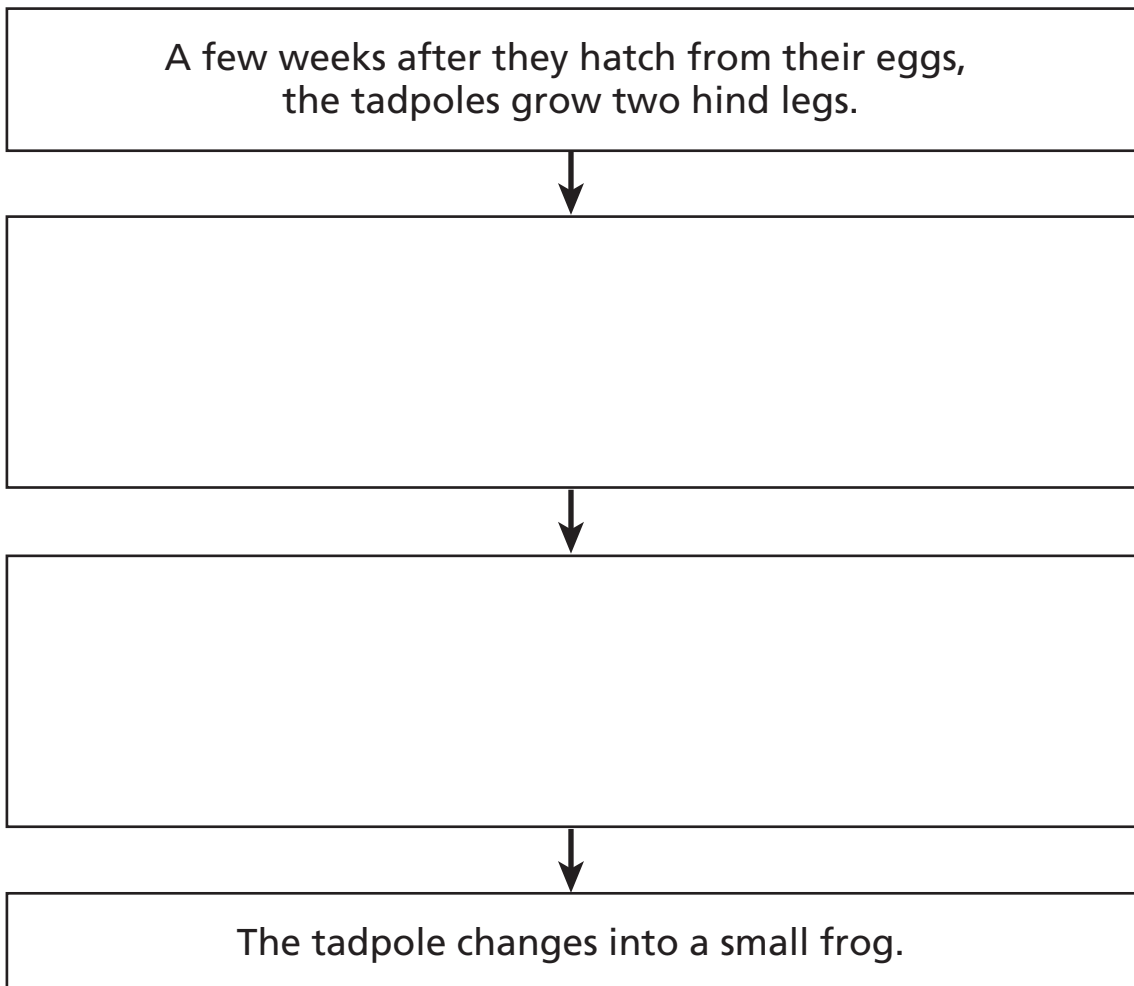
The little frog catches bugs and worms. It swallows them in its wide mouth. The frog eats and grows. It gets a little bigger every day. After about two or three years, the frog is fully grown.

Every spring there will be new frog eggs in the pond.

32

The chart below shows part of what happens in the passage “From Tadpole to Frog.” Complete the chart with events from the passage in the order in which they occur.

WHAT HAPPENS IN "FROM TADPOLE TO FROG"



Go On

Butterfly House

by *Eve Bunting*
illustrated by *Greg Shed*

When I was just a little girl I saw a small black creature like a tiny worm, and saved it from a greedy jay who wanted it for lunch.

I carried it inside, safe on its wide green leaf. My grandpa said it was a larva and soon would be a butterfly.

We laid the larva carefully on thistle leaves inside an empty jar, put in a twig for it to climb—then made a lid of soft white paper all stuck around with glue.

My grandpa knew exactly what to do. “I raised a butterfly myself,” he said, “when I was just your age.”

How strange to think my grandpa once was young like me. “We would have been best friends if I’d been there back then,” I said.

My grandpa smiled. “It worked out anyhow. We’re best friends now.”

Up in his room we found a box. I cut a window in its side, then covered it with screen. Soon I could look inside and see my larva looking back at me.

What would she see? A human face so big and scary, strange and starey? What would she think?

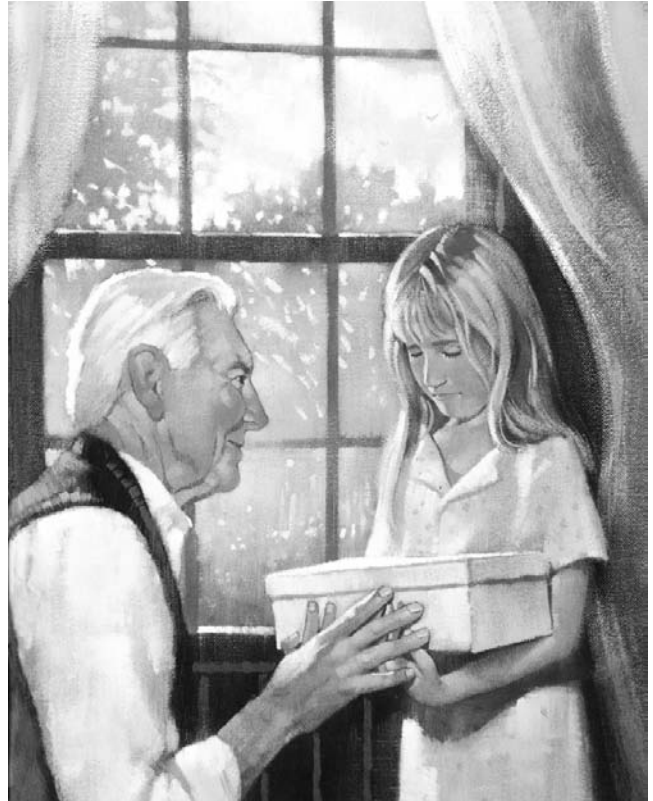
“I want it pretty till she goes,” I said.

And so Grandpa and I drew flowers on colored paper. Cone flowers, purple-blue, and marigolds, lantana, bright as flame, and thistles, too.

We wedged a garden twig inside the box for her to walk on, so her wings could dry once she became a butterfly.

My grandpa knows the flowers butterflies like best.

The ones where they can rest and drink the sweet, clear nectar.



We glued the painted flowers inside the box so it was bright with color. Made a sky above, the lid all blue with small white cotton clouds, and green with tops of trees that seemed to sway in soundless air.

I made a curve of rainbow like a hug to keep her safe while she was there. We set the jar inside and closed the painted lid. Through the screened window I could see the garden house. A place of flowers and space and waiting stillness.

Each day I put out leaves for food and watched my larva change.

My grandpa knew when it was time to gently pull away the paper top she hung from. I taped it to the wall inside her house and let her be. She would hang free inside the chrysalis that kept her hidden from the world.

chrysalis = cocoon

Inside that magic place she grew, transformed herself, came out, drooped, limp and slack, with crumpled wings. She was a butterfly, all spotted, orange, black, and brown as if someone had shaken paints and let the drops fall down.

“Our Painted Lady,” Grandpa said. “It’s time.”

He meant that it was time for her to leave for her new life. I swallowed tears. From the beginning I had known today would come. Now it was here.

My grandpa took my hand. “Cry if you like,” he said. “We understand.”

We carried out the box and raised the lid. I watched her falter as she felt the first warm touch of sun, saw trees, felt breezes brush across her wings. She rose, then rested on the fig tree branch. I saw her fly.

“Good-bye.”

Go On

33

In the passage “Butterfly House,” the girl wants the butterfly to be happy in the house until it flies away. How do the girl and her grandpa make the house special for the butterfly? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

34

How does the girl in “Butterfly House” feel at the end of the passage? Why does she feel that way? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Go On

Planning Page

You may PLAN your writing for question 35 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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