



New York State Testing Program

English

Language Arts Test

Book 3

Grade

6

January 20–23, 2009

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 an article called “Climbin’ Ryan” about a boy who climbed Mount Whitney and another article called “Natalya’s Happy Hugged Hens” about a girl who raises chickens. 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

Climbin’ Ryan

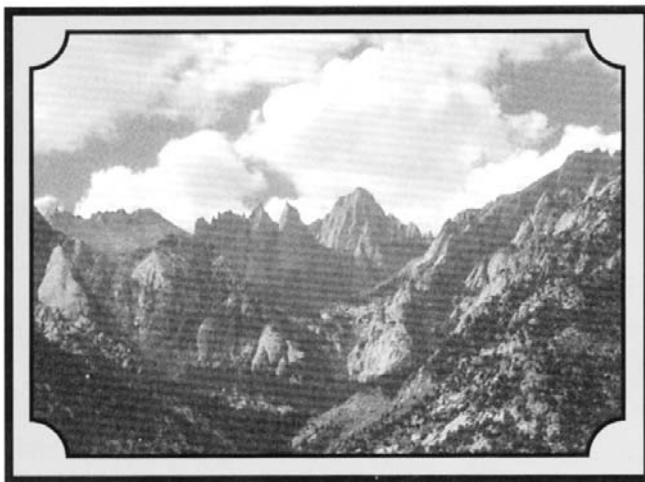
by Elisabeth Deffner

It was 3 A.M. when Ryan Dascanio slipped out of his sleeping bag and pulled on his headlamp. Despite the long johns under his zip-off pants, he shivered, listening to the birdsong surrounding him. For the critters living in the Sierra Nevada, it was just another day, but for Ryan, 11, it was a momentous occasion.

It was the day he would climb Mount Whitney, the 14,491-foot-high peak that is the highest in the continental United States.

“I’m really active outside,” says Ryan, a fifth-grader who lives in Fullerton, California. “I do 13-mile bike rides every Monday on a trail through the hills.”

He’s done his share of hiking, too, through hills near his house and in the San Bernardino Mountains. When his aunt, Sue Fenante, told him about the Hike for the Cure, which goes to the top of Mount Whitney, he decided to do it.



Hike for the Cure is a fundraiser for the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society, organized by Eddie Colburn, a friend of the family. Each hiker asks people to donate money to the event. This year, the 36 hikers collected more than \$10,000. Ryan raised about \$1,000.

Fundraising wasn’t as big a challenge as training for the hike. Ryan and his dad, Dennis, trained together. His Aunt Sue also invited Ryan along on a nine-hour training hike at Half Dome Mountain in Yosemite National Park.

He prepared as best he could, but Ryan still couldn’t imagine what it would be like to climb Mount Whitney. Not long after his 3 A.M. start his legs started to ache. Even his dad began to wonder if they had trained hard enough. The hike lasted 18 exhausting hours, broken by occasional five-minute breaks. Ryan and his dad rested on a ledge to watch the sun rise, and they took an hour-long breather at the summit, which they reached after noon—more than nine hours after they started.

The higher they climbed, the thinner the air became. It made Ryan lose his appetite, but he had to eat to keep up his energy. By the time they neared the peak, the hikers felt like they were

moving in slow motion through a moonscape of massive, flat, pale rocks.

“Lots of times I didn’t want to walk anymore,” Ryan admits. “I just wanted to fall over.”

But his dad encouraged Ryan to keep going, and they were among the 26 Hike for the Cure participants who made it to the top of Mount Whitney. From the summit, Ryan called his school principal, who announced over the school loudspeaker that Ryan had achieved his goal. He called his mom, too, and told her how hungry he was!

Retracing their steps back to the campsite was easier than hiking up, especially after a snack of sunflower seeds re-energized Ryan. “I just ran down,” he says. “I liked the downhill!”

“He’s one of the younger hikers ever to day-hike Whitney,” says Eddie Carrillo. “Ryan has a lot to be proud of.”

Looking back on the experience now, Ryan says it almost seems unreal. But, he says, “I’m really happy that I did it.”

31

Complete the chart below by naming **two** people who helped Ryan achieve his goal. Then describe how each person helped him. Use details from the article to support your answer.

Person Who Helped Ryan	How the Person Helped Ryan

Go On

32

What challenges did Ryan overcome to successfully climb Mount Whitney? Use details from the article to support your answer.

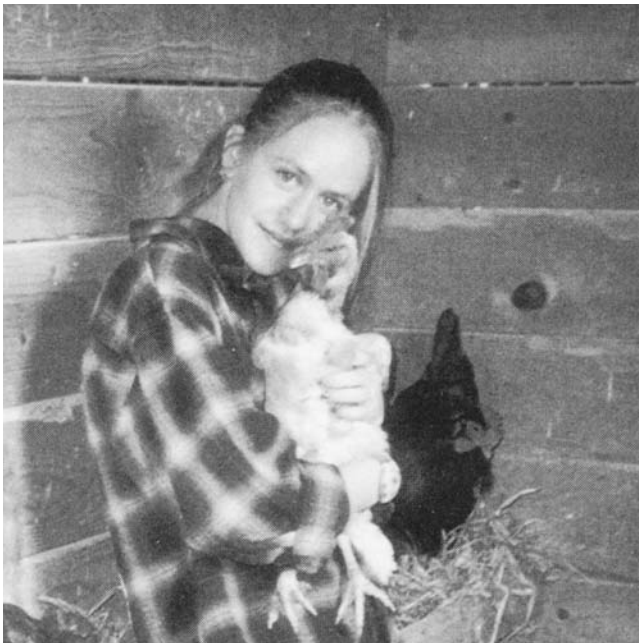
Natalya's Happy Hugged Hens

by Natalya Fearnley

Twelve-year-old Natalya Fearnley lives on a farm in Colorado with her parents, horse, cat, bird, two dogs, six goats, and 23 chickens. She makes more than \$300 each year selling the eggs of her "happy hens." Then she uses the money to make others happy.

When I was five years old my family moved to a farm in Colorado. Before they bought living room furniture, my parents filled the barn with animals. Right away, I decided to start a business selling eggs. I called it "Happy Hugged Hens."

That was seven years ago. Now, I have 23 chickens and one duck. They lay eggs that I sell to people I know at school and in our community. I sell the eggs for three dollars a dozen and keep the money I earn in a savings account. At the end of the year, I send money to different organizations to help people in other countries. For a while, I sent the money to an organization called Seva that helps communities in lots of



Natalya hugs one of her hens.

countries. One year the money helped girls in Guatemala learn to read and write. Another year it helped blind people in Nepal get cataract surgery so they could see again. This year, I sent the money I saved to Code Pink, a women's organization working for peace in Iraq.

Ever since I was little, my parents discussed world events and reflected on how lucky we were to have the right to go to school and a safe place to live. At Christmas, my mom helped me sort through my toys and taught me about giving things away. I felt connected to people all over the world.

I believe helping communities around the world is important and can help you understand people who are different from you. I enjoy giving because I'm not working just for my own happiness or needs—I'm really helping others, and that makes me feel good. Even though I'm not doing hands-on work, I'm helping organizations such as Seva and Code Pink achieve their goals by working on my own small farm. I know that by doing something, even a small something, I can help make things better outside of my own town.

I take care of the animals as if they were my sisters and brothers. I don't always want to go out to the barn for chores. Sometimes all I want to do is go inside and take a nap after a long day of school! But after I go to the barn, I feel refreshed and happier. I love seeing the hens and our 15 new

Go On

baby chicks and three ducklings! It's difficult in our culture for young women to feel secure. Everywhere you turn there's another picture of a perfect person and some ad telling you how to make yourself better. When I go out to the barn to spend time working purely on my own strength, I feel good and powerful. I remember what's important inside me and that I can help people in other cultures who are struggling.

When I'm older I'd like to be a journalist who travels around the world. I want to know more about other countries and expand my experience beyond my small community and three-person family. I feel that I'm somehow getting closer to different cultures when I donate money to help the life of a person in another country.

33

Describe what Natalya likes **and** what she dislikes about taking care of her animals. Use details from the article 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.



STOP

Place Student Label Here



Grade 6
English Language Arts Test
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