Sample Questions

The Rhinoceros

by Oliver Herford

So this is the Rhinoceros!
I wonder why he looks so cross.
Perhaps he is annoyed a bit
Because his clothing does not fit.
5 (They say he got it ready made!)
It is not that, I am afraid.
He looks so cross because I drew
Him with one horn instead of two.

Well, since he cares so much for style,
10 Let’s give him two and see him smile.

S1 How does the Rhinoceros look at the beginning of the poem?
   A calm
   B eager
   C scared
   D upset

S2 What would change the Rhinoceros’s feelings?
   A giving him new clothing
   B being afraid of his size
   C drawing him with two horns
   D showing off his new style
Grandpa Joe

by J.T. Waite

1. Which statement supports the main idea of this selection?
   A. People should spend more time working than with family.
   B. People should spend more time with family than working.
   C. People should spend more time fishing than building forts.
   D. People should spend more time building forts than fishing.

2. Which word describes Jake’s Grandpa?
   A. busy
   B. shy
   C. lazy
   D. caring

3. Based on paragraph 10, which word is similar to mean?
   A. angry
   B. unkind
   C. intend
   D. cause
Grandpa Joe

by J.T. Waite

4. In paragraph 14, what does Grandpa mean when he says, “But my Grandpa Joe had a way with people. Made ’em smile”?
   A. Grandpa Joe was a dentist who repaired smiles.
   B. Grandpa Joe was always smiling at others.
   C. Grandpa Joe’s magic made people excited.
   D. Grandpa Joe was friendly and made people happy.

5. How does Jake feel about his Grandpa spending time with him?
   A. irritated
   B. angry
   C. fortunate
   D. bored

6. How are Grandpa Joe and Jake’s grandpa alike?
   A. Both spent a lot of time with their grandsons.
   B. Both worked as glass makers and mechanics.
   C. Both wanted someone to invent aunts and uncles.
   D. Both had important jobs when they were young.
Pet’s Best Friend

by Claire Miller

7 Which statement summarizes the text?
A A young girl takes dogs for walks to help them get their exercise.
B A young girl massages injured animals to help them with sore muscles.
C A young girl starts as a volunteer and decides to become a veterinary assistant.
D A young girl wants to become a veterinarian and have her own business.

8 What is meant by the sentence below?
“‘It always bugged me when the vet took our dogs to the back of the office and closed the door’”?
A Courtney was bothered that she could not be with her dog.
B There were flies and other insects biting her dogs.
C Courtney was afraid her dog would never come out.
D There were other animals that might harm the dogs.
Pet’s Best Friend

by Claire Miller

9. How does the author show that Courtney truly wanted to learn about animals?
   A. by explaining that Courtney’s mom had to go with her when she was a volunteer at the family vet
   B. by mentioning the difficult course Courtney took to learn about the body systems of animals
   C. by telling that Courtney was glad she was unable to help during the surgeries
   D. by telling how Courtney decided to study for a different career after her volunteer work

10. Why does Courtney’s mom always go with her when she works at the vet’s office?
    A. Courtney’s mom works at the vet’s office.
    B. Courtney needs help to do her jobs at the vet’s office.
    C. Courtney does not know how to take care of animals.
    D. Courtney is not an adult and must have a parent with her.

11. In paragraph 4, what is the meaning of stethoscope?
    A. a type of care to help relieve an animal’s pain
    B. a method used to relax animals during medical exams
    C. a device used to measure an animal’s temperature
    D. an instrument used to hear the heartbeat of an animal
Pet’s Best Friend

by Claire Miller

12 Why is Courtney unable to perform surgeries on animals in the veterinary office?
   A Courtney’s mother will not allow her to operate.
   B Only veterinarians can perform surgeries.
   C Only veterinary assistants are able to operate.
   D Courtney is not old enough to perform surgeries.

13 What is the main idea of paragraph 9?
   A how Courtney and Dr. Neary help animals with joint problems
   B how Courtney took online courses to learn about animal care
   C how Courtney calms down owners who are worried about their pets
   D how Courtney and her family vet perform surgery on injured pets

14 According to the selection, why do some animal exercises take place in shallow water?
   A It is comfortable for them.
   B They enjoy getting wet.
   C It is easier on their joints.
   D They need the exercise.
Pet’s Best Friend

by Claire Miller

15 How does the author show that Courtney wants to become a vet?

A by listing all the work and courses that Courtney completes to gain knowledge

B by writing about Courtney pet sitting for her neighbors

C by writing about the business where Courtney wants to work

D by listing books Courtney reads about becoming a vet
The Happy Sheep

by Wilfred Thorley

All through the night the happy sheep
Lie in the meadow grass asleep.

Their wool keeps out the frost and rain
Until the sun comes round again.

They have no buttons to undo,
Nor hair to brush like me and you.

And with the light they lift their heads
To find their breakfast on their beds,

Or rise and walk about and eat
The carpet underneath their feet.

16 Which statement summarizes the poem?
A Sheep are happy because they can sleep all night in the meadow.
B Sheep are happy because they have everything they need.
C Sheep are happy because they do not have buttons to undo.
D Sheep are happy because they have wool to protect them from the weather.

17 What is the effect of giving human qualities to the sheep?
A to show how much sheep sleep each day
B to show that sheep eat the same food as people
C to show that sheep have an easier life than people
D to show how sheep like to have their wool brushed
18 Which describes the setting of the poem?
   A a room with carpet
   B a room with a bed
   C a meadow
   D a forest

19 What is the meaning of line 4?
   A until the sun goes down at night
   B until the sun comes out the next morning
   C until the sun hides behind the winter winds
   D until the sun is hot enough to make them sweat

20 What is the meaning of lines 7–10?
   A The sheep use a lamp to wake up in the morning.
   B The sheep keep a lamp near their bed every night.
   C Their breakfast is brought to them each morning.
   D Their bed is a meadow where they can eat.
21 According to line 10, what does the word *carpet* represent?
A dirt  
B wool  
C sand  
D grass
You’re a Poet, Now Let Them Know It

by Lee Pelham Cotton

22 Which statement summarizes the text?
   A The library has a lot of good information to help people write poems.
   B Be sure to follow all grammar rules when writing a poem.
   C A person who writes poems should submit them for publishing.
   D Many people write poems and never get published.

23 According to the selection, why is it important to visit the library?
   A to find information about upcoming contests
   B to find a quiet place to write poetry
   C to learn what judges are looking for
   D to publish a book of poetry

24 Which summarizes the section “Playing the Game”?
   A Check for spelling errors.
   B Never give up.
   C Send gifts to the judges.
   D Follow the rules.
You’re a Poet, Now Let Them Know It

by Lee Pelham Cotton

25 Based on paragraph 5, what does considered mean?
A stopped for
B left alone
C tested on
D thought about

26 Based on the selection, what are “grammatical errors”?
A mistakes in libraries
B mistakes in drawings
C mistakes made in reading
D mistakes made in writing

27 Why did the author include a list of useful terms at the end of this selection?
A to help the reader understand the meaning of unfamiliar words
B to explain the steps in submitting a poem to a magazine
C to give a summary of the steps for publishing a poem
D to tell how to pronounce unfamiliar words
You’re a Poet, Now Let Them Know It

by Lee Pelham Cotton

28 In the selection, what is a *publication*?
A a tool used to send manuscripts
B an idea for poems that are edited separately
C a group of writings that are printed together
D an envelope used to hold written work

29 According to the chart, what is a *submission*?
A a group of people who read poems sent to a magazine
B a contest that is interested in receiving poems
C the writing that is sent to an editor
D a list of rules for entering a writing contest

30 According to the text and the illustration, what is important to include with each poem sent to a publisher?
A a self-addressed, stamped envelope
B a list of dates that each poem was written
C an ink pen
D a notebook
The Eerie, Haunting, Terrible Cry

by Sandra Beswetherick

31 Which statement summarizes the selection?
A Sleepovers with scary stories are always fun.
B Sleepovers can be frightening when camping in the woods.
C Andy told the scariest stories and was the most scared of all.
D Andy, who was not welcomed by everyone, proved to be the bravest of all.

32 Why were the speaker’s friends upset with him at the beginning of the selection?
A He would not tell scary ghost stories.
B His little brother was staying with them.
C He brought stuffed animals into the tent.
D His little brother was ruining the sleepover.

33 Which event from the story caused the speaker to change his mind about his little brother?
A His little brother ran and found what was causing the scary noise.
B His little brother told the scariest stories of anyone he knew.
C His little brother became afraid listening to the stories and went back inside.
D His little brother ran to the house to get their father.
The Eerie, Haunting, Terrible Cry

by Sandra Beswetherick

34 Based on paragraph 32, which word describes the speaker?
   A confident
   B frightened
   C calm
   D excited

35 As used in paragraph 36, what is the meaning of quills?
   A the large wing or tail feathers of a bird
   B feathers formed into pens used for writing
   C devices used for plucking guitar strings
   D the hollow spines on a porcupine

36 In paragraph 38, which could replace “My heart lifted like a helium balloon”?
   A The narrator felt a great sense of fear.
   B The narrator’s heart felt light and weightless.
   C The narrator felt a great sense of relief.
   D The narrator felt heavy in his chest.
Excerpt from *On the Bus with Joanna Cole*

by Joanna Cole

37 In the first sentence of paragraph 2, what is the meaning of *enchanted*?
   A bored
   B hopeful
   C curious
   D delighted

38 In paragraph 2, what is the meaning of *enthusiastic*?
   A anxious
   B eager
   C nervous
   D bored

39 What did the author think would make the *Magic School Bus* books successful?
   A making the plots exciting while filling the books with science facts
   B having the characters visit common places
   C making the children in the books more excited than their teacher
   D filling the books with colorful pictures
Excerpt from *On the Bus with Joanna Cole*

*by Joanna Cole*

40 Where did the author get the idea for her main character, Ms. Frizzle?

A a teacher from a children’s TV show
B her daughter’s fourth-grade teacher
C a teacher she saw on the news
D one of her old science teachers

41 According to the author, who does Ms. Frizzle’s teaching resemble?

A her own
B Miss Isaacs’s
C Miss Bair’s
D Bruce Degen’s

42 What is something the author does when she has an idea for another *Magic School Bus* book?

A She writes a two-page outline and sends it to her editor.
B She writes everything quickly before she loses her thoughts.
C She reads one of the other *Magic School Bus* books.
D She asks her old teacher and editors to help her.
Excerpt from *On the Bus with Joanna Cole*

*by Joanna Cole*

43 In paragraph 7, what is the meaning of “fleshing out”?  
A leaving alone  
B making better  
C worrying about  
D writing over

44 What does the author use to explain how the *Magic School Bus* books were created?  
A cause and effect  
B sequence of events  
C description of objects  
D compare and contrast
This is the end of the English Language Arts/Reading test.

Directions:

1. Look back over your answers for the test questions.

2. Put all of your papers inside your test book and close your test book.

3. Stay quietly in your seat until your teacher tells you that testing is finished.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction wishes to express gratitude to the following authors and publishers, whose generous permission to reprint literary selections has made these tests possible. Every effort has been made to locate the copyright owners of material reprinted in this test booklet. Omissions brought to our attention will be corrected in subsequent editions.


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Grade 4 English Language Arts/Reading
RELEASED Form
2012–2013
Answer Key

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**Item Types:**
MC = multiple choice

**Note about selections:**
Reading for literature texts can be stories or poems.
Reading for informational texts can be scientific, historical, economic, or technical.