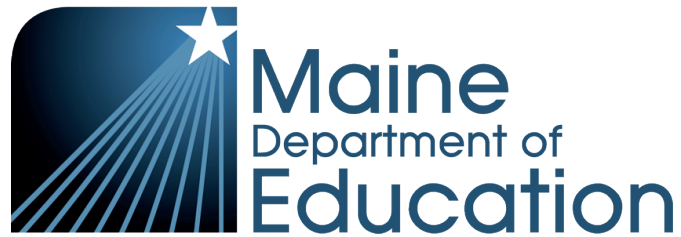


# Maine MEA Grades 3 - 5 Reading Practice

Exam Materials  
Pages 2 - 16

Answer Key Materials  
Page 17



# **Maine Through Year Assessment**

## **Item Type Sampler**

### **Reading**

### **Grade 3–5**

Student's Name:

**Directions:**

On the following pages of your booklet are passages and questions for the Grade 3–5 *Maine Through Year Assessment Reading Item Type Sampler*.

Read these directions carefully before beginning this item type sampler.

This item type sampler will include several different types of questions. Questions are based on one or two passages. Multiple choice questions will ask you to select an answer from among four choices. Multiple select questions will ask you to select multiple correct answers from among five or more answer choices. For some questions, there may be two parts, Part A and Part B, where each part has a multiple choice or multiple select question.

For all questions:

- Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.
- You may use scratch paper to make notes.
- Be sure to answer ALL the questions.

When you come to the word STOP, you have finished the Grade 3–5 Reading Item Type Sampler.

### Outdoor School

- 1 It was the night before Erik's first day of outdoor kindergarten. The family was having dinner. Erik had been pestering Daniel with questions about school all day, just as he had every day for the last two weeks. Daniel had been annoyed and refused to answer most of Erik's questions.
- 2 *Why is he always asking so many questions? Why can't he just go to school and enjoy it like I did?* Daniel thought to himself. Daniel would give anything to go back to outdoor kindergarten. The more questions that Erik asked, the grumpier Daniel got. Finally, he'd had enough.
- 3 "Stop with all the questions," he said in a loud voice, standing up from the table. "You will go to school outside like all Norwegian children, and you will love it. Now stop asking me so many questions!" Then, he excused himself from the table and stomped to his room. His parents called after him, telling him to apologize to his little brother.
- 4 Once he was in his room, Daniel started to feel bad about how he had treated Erik. After all, Daniel was 10 years old, but Erik was only 5. He shouldn't be so hard on his little brother. Daniel lay on his bed, daydreaming about one of his favorite days from kindergarten, when his class had built a small den—almost like an animal's den—out of wood and other natural materials. After building the den, each student got a turn to crawl inside it and eat a snack. How he wished he could go back to kindergarten!
- 5 There was a soft knock on the door. "What do you want?" snapped Daniel as he was ripped away from his happy memory.
- 6 "Fine."
- 7 Erik opened the door slightly and sheepishly peeked into the room. Daniel suddenly felt terrible. "Come on in, brother. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to be grouchy with you."
- 8 "That's OK." Erik shuffled in, holding a teddy bear.
- 9 "I know you don't like me asking questions, but . . . but . . ."
- 10 "It's fine," Daniel said, sitting up. "I know you are just nervous about going to school tomorrow. Go ahead and ask me anything you want."
- 11 "Really?" Erik's little face brightened. He walked toward the bed and hopped on.
- 12 "Ask me all of the questions you want to know about school. I promise I will tell you everything. I just know you will love it!"
- 13 "Why do we have outdoor kindergarten in Norway?"
- 14 "Well, nature is important. Mom told me that your school and others like it are outdoors because it makes us more creative and independent. That means you get better at doing things on your own. While you're playing outside all day, you're also learning."

- 15 “What are some of the things we will learn?”
- 16 “First, you learn about the woods. Your teachers will take you for walks. You will learn about the forest and different animals that live in it. You will learn how to identify plants by looking at their leaves. You will see different animals outdoors and then use clay to make models of them. There are all sorts of activities that will make you love the outdoors. It is a lot of fun, Erik.”
- 17 “What will we do when there is snow? What happens if I get cold?”
- 18 “When it snows, you will still be outside for three hours at a time. Mom and Dad will get you the clothes you need to stay warm. You will take breaks inside the school cottage to eat and rest.”
- 19 Erik seemed to relax, warming to the idea of school, but he still had more questions for his older brother. Daniel was true to his word. He patiently answered every question his little brother asked until Erik’s eyes grew heavy. Daniel told Erik to go get ready for bed because he had to be rested for a fun day tomorrow. Erik hurried to the door of Daniel’s room and glanced back with a smile.
- 20 As Daniel smiled back at his little brother, he realized that even though he was no longer in outdoor kindergarten, he could still do all the outdoor activities he had loved so much on his own. Maybe he would even bring Erik along sometimes. *The little guy isn’t so bad*, he thought to himself.

## READING - ITEM TYPE SAMPLER

---

1. Based on paragraphs 1–3, what is the MOST LIKELY reason Daniel refuses to answer Erik’s questions?

A. Daniel is uncertain why children’s kindergarten classes are not indoors.

B. Daniel is too busy with his own schoolwork for questions about kindergarten.

C. Daniel thinks Erik’s questions are unnecessary because kindergarten is pleasant.

D. Daniel believes that Erik should go to their parents with his questions about kindergarten.

2. **Read the sentences from paragraph 4.**

“After all, Daniel was 10 years old, but Erik was only 5. He shouldn’t be so hard on his little brother.”

What does it mean that Daniel “shouldn’t be so hard on his little brother”?

A. Daniel ought to help his brother with tasks.

B. Daniel should behave more gently with his brother.

C. Daniel should seem more excited when having a conversation.

D. Daniel must try to use easier words when explaining things.

3. What is the MOST LIKELY reason that Erik smiles at the end of paragraph 19?

A. Erik is relieved that Daniel will try to protect him.

B. Erik is trying to avoid looking worried around Daniel.

C. Daniel’s knowledge is helping Erik feel more comfortable.

D. Daniel’s experiences are showing Erik how to be successful.

4. Which sentence BEST states a theme of the story?
- A. It might be exciting to work in a group, but individual learning is what people remember.
  - B. It may be difficult to start new adventures, but they provide opportunities to grow and learn.
  - C. It is important to learn about forests and other outdoor wild areas in order to care for them.
  - D. It is best to focus on the excitement of being outdoors rather than spend too much time getting prepared.
5. How does the reader know that this story has a third-person narrator?
- A. Daniel speaks directly to the reader about what happens.
  - B. A narrator asks readers to imagine themselves in the story.
  - C. Erik has a conversation with Daniel that explains what the characters do.
  - D. A narrator who is not a character describes the events that happen in the story.

## READING - ITEM TYPE SAMPLER

---

The next two passages are paired. Read the first passage, and then read the second passage.

### The Famous Playwright

- 1 “What’s in a name? That which we call a rose/By any other word would smell as sweet.” These famous words have been spoken thousands of times over the last 400 years on stage and, more recently, in film. They come from a play called *Romeo and Juliet* and were written by one of the world’s most famous playwrights: William Shakespeare.
- 2 Shakespeare was a high-volume writer during his life, and he created many plays and poems that are still read and performed today. His works are so well respected that universities throughout the world offer classes, and even degrees, based on the study of Shakespeare’s work.

### Early Life and Career

- 3 Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, England, in 1564. By 1592, he was living in London. The years between are known as “the lost years” because nobody knows for sure where he was. It is believed he moved to London at some point during this time.
- 4 While in London, Shakespeare had his first work published in 1593. It was a long poem called *Venus and Adonis*. It became a bestseller and helped launch Shakespeare’s career as a writer.

### Some of Shakespeare’s Plays

**1580–1590***The Taming of the Shrew***1590–1600***Richard III**The Comedy of Errors**A Midsummer Night’s Dream**Romeo and Juliet**Henry V***1600–1610***Hamlet**Twelfth Night**Othello**King Lear**Macbeth***After 1610***The Winter’s Tale**Henry VIII*



### The Globe Theatre

- 5 Besides writing, Shakespeare was also involved in the theater. He was a member of an acting group called The Lord Chamberlain's Men, which later became known as The King's Men. He stayed in this group the rest of his career, almost twenty years. Many of his most famous plays were written during this time, including *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, and *Hamlet*.
- 6 Shakespeare's acting group rented a theater to act out their plays. In 1598, the landlord intended to tear down the theater. The landlord owned the land, but he did not own the building. In order to keep the building, the acting group, with the help of a carpenter, dismantled the building and moved the theater across the river piece by piece.
- 7 The new theater reopened in 1599 and was named the Globe Theatre. It was named after the mythological story of Hercules carrying the world on his back, just like the actors carried the theater on their backs to the new location.
- 8 The theater was about one hundred feet in diameter, had twenty sides (giving it a round shape), and could hold up to 3,000 people. Most of the audience members stood to watch the performances because there were few seats. Audience members were exposed to the rain and cold from the open roof. Only a few theatergoers were able to purchase a covered, cushioned seat.
- 9 Many of Shakespeare's plays were specifically designed for performances at the Globe. The actors at the Globe used several special effects during the plays. They used trapdoors, wires that lifted actors into the air, smoke, and even cannons. In June 1613, a cannon actually caught the thatched roof on fire, and the Globe burned to the ground. It was rebuilt by 1614.
- 10 Plays at the Globe were different from Shakespeare plays today. Although many of Shakespeare's greatest characters were females, females were not allowed to act during the time. Therefore, all the roles, including female ones, were portrayed by men. Unlike many theaters today, where silence is expected, theaters during Shakespeare's time could be very rowdy. It was not unusual for crowds to shout or boo and even throw objects such as food at actors they did not like.
- 11 In 1642, all theaters were ordered to close, and the Globe was torn down in 1644. It was not until 1970 that a fund was set up to rebuild it. The plan was to build the theater just like it was in Shakespeare's time. In 1997, the Globe was reopened one street over from the original location. It can be toured today, and many of Shakespeare's plays are still performed there.

### Legacy

- 12 William Shakespeare died in 1616 at the age of fifty-two. He is buried in Stratford-upon-Avon. Besides the Globe, both his birthplace and burial site can be toured today.
- 13 Throughout his life, Shakespeare is thought to have written thirty-eight plays, two narrative sonnets, and 154 sonnets, as well as a variety of other poems. Unfortunately, no original manuscripts of his plays survived. Thankfully, his acting group collected his works

## READING - ITEM TYPE SAMPLER

---

and had them published after his death. This book, known as *First Folio*, contained thirty-six plays, including eighteen that had never been published before.

- 14 Shakespeare's works have been republished and collected in numerous books. Throughout his writing career, he is believed to have invented around 1,700 words, and he created many of the phrases that we still use. Many playwrights and book authors have quoted Shakespeare and continue to do so. Some authors have even used individual phrases from Shakespeare's works as titles for their own books. Shakespeare continues to be one of the most important figures of the English language.

Book Title and Author	Phrase Originated From
<i>Brave New World</i> , by Aldous Huxley	<i>The Tempest</i>
<i>The Winter of Our Discontent</i> , by John Steinbeck	<i>Richard III</i>
<i>Something Wicked This Way Comes</i> , by Ray Bradbury	<i>Macbeth</i>

Now read the second passage.

### Shakespeare's Words

- 1 Have you ever been led on a “wild-geese chase” or heard a difficult situation described as being “in a pickle”? We have the sixteenth-century poet, playwright, and actor William Shakespeare to thank for these phrases. In fact, you probably use many of Shakespeare’s words and phrases without even knowing it.
- 2 Shakespeare wrote many plays, sonnets, and poems during his lifetime. After his death, his friends published a collection of his plays known as *First Folio*. Without this, many of his plays would have been lost forever. This publication helped keep Shakespeare’s popularity alive centuries after his death.
- 3 Shakespeare was a remarkable storyteller who told stories that people could relate to. He took popular plots and ideas from other plays of the era and put his own twist on them by using creative forms of poetry. He was witty, and sometimes his humor could be very crude. This delighted the audiences of the time. His stories are still acted out on stages all over the world today, in settings and in times not of 1600s England or before. Rather, the plays are set in large cities or on another planet in the future. His stories stand the test of time.
- 4 Shakespeare was also a master of the English language. He is given credit for introducing 1,700 new words. Shakespeare used language creatively. He used words in new ways to create phrases that we still use today. Have your parents ever said you have “eaten me out of house and home”? This expression means you have eaten so much that all the food is gone, and it was used in Shakespeare’s play *Henry IV, Part 2*. Have you ever used the phrase “come what may”? This means that whatever is going to happen will happen. This saying is commonly used today but is based on a phrase used in the play *Macbeth*. Green is the color of jealousy because Shakespeare used the words “green-eyed monster” in his play *Othello*. Have you ever had to “break the ice” when meeting a new person for the first time? Maybe you asked polite questions about them or told them things about yourself? This phrase was first seen in *The Taming of the Shrew*.
- 5 Not only are his phrases remembered, but many of the words we use today are because of Shakespeare. The word *friend* has been around for a long time. It was originally used as a noun, as in a person, place, or thing. For example, “John is my friend.” Today, we also use it as a verb, or an action word. For example, “I am going to friend John.” Shakespeare first used friend as a verb in *Henry V* in 1599. The word *elbow* was commonly used to describe the body part. Shakespeare was the first to use it as a verb in *King Lear*. Now, we commonly use it as a verb. For example, “Sarah elbowed her brother.”
- 6 Shakespeare also loved to connect words together to form new words. *Bed* and *room* were commonly used words in Shakespeare’s time. He connected them together and formed the new word *bedroom*. This term replaced *bedchamber* in everyday use.
- 7 Shakespeare added prefixes and suffixes to change words. *Un-* was added to many words, such as *unagreeable*, *unadvised*, and *unanswered*. He added *dis-* to many words

## READING - ITEM TYPE SAMPLER

---

as well, such as *dishearten* or *dislocate*. In *The Taming of the Shrew*, he used the word *bedazzled* to mean a gleam of sunlight. This word is now used to describe rhinestone-embellished clothing and accessories. By adding a suffix to the end of a word, he created the words *heartless*, *worthless*, and *fashionable*. He sometimes used both a prefix and a suffix to come up with a new use of a word, such as *uncomfortable* in *Romeo and Juliet*.

- 8 Sometimes Shakespeare invented new words. Have you ever heard the word *swagger*? Shakespeare invented it. He first used it in his plays *Henry V* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Now, we commonly use the terms *swagger* and *swag*. In *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, he was the first to use the word *manager*. If not for Shakespeare, we could not request to see the manager to complain.

- 9 Many people think William Shakespeare was the best English writer of all time. His many works are about love, revenge, jealousy, murder, and mystery. Shakespeare wrote thirty-seven plays. He wrote histories, comedies, romances, tragedies, and a lot of poetry. He also wrote the **blockbuster** plays of his day. Some of his most famous are *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Hamlet*. It has been over 400 years since his death, and we still celebrate his works all around the world. Shakespeare is best remembered for his witty and creative use of the English language and for changing the way we use words today.

- 6 Which **two** details from *The Famous Playwright* BEST show why Shakespeare remains well known? Select **two**.
- A. His first published poem became a bestseller.
  - B. His plays were performed at the Globe Theatre.
  - C. His works have been published in numerous books.
  - D. His writing has been studied in universities throughout the world.
  - E. His most famous plays were written while he was part of an acting group.
7. What does the author of *The Famous Playwright* mean by saying “Shakespeare was a high-volume writer during his life” in paragraph 2?
- A. He wrote about many subjects.
  - B. His work was popular with fans.
  - C. He created a lot of works quickly.
  - D. His writing was imitated by others.
8. According to information in *The Famous Playwright*, in which **two** ways did The Lord Chamberlain’s Men help Shakespeare’s success? Select **two**.
- A. They offered him a place to stay in London.
  - B. They ran tours of his birthplace and burial site.
  - C. They acted out his first poem called *Venus and Adonis*.
  - D. They published his works in a book named *First Folio*.
  - E. They helped save the theater where his plays were performed.

## READING - ITEM TYPE SAMPLER

---

9. Which sentence from *The Famous Playwright* BEST supports the idea that Shakespeare's work is admired?
- A. They come from a play called *Romeo and Juliet* and were written by one of the world's most famous playwrights: William Shakespeare.
  - B. Many of his most famous plays were written during this time, including *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, and *Hamlet*.
  - C. Thankfully, his acting group collected his works and had them published after his death.
  - D. Many playwrights and book authors have quoted Shakespeare and continue to do so.
10. **This question has two parts. Answer part A, and then answer part B.**

### **Part A**

Which claim about Shakespeare does the author make in *Shakespeare's Words*?

- A. He made theater more popular.
- B. He preferred to write about the future.
- C. He wrote in a variety of styles and genres.
- D. He affected the way others wrote poetry and plays.

### **Part B**

Which sentence from *Shakespeare's Words* BEST supports the answer in part A?

- A. Shakespeare was a remarkable storyteller who told stories that people could relate to.
- B. This delighted the audiences of the time.
- C. Rather, the plays are set in large cities or on another planet in the future.
- D. His many works are about love, revenge, jealousy, murder, and mystery.

11. Read this sentence from paragraph 9 of *Shakespeare's Words*.

"He also wrote the **blockbuster** plays of his day."

What does the word **blockbuster** mean as it is used in the sentence?

- A. original
  - B. powerful
  - C. stylish
  - D. successful
12. How does the author of *Shakespeare's Words* support the idea that Shakespeare's work continues to be important today?
- A. by showing how popular phrases originated through his work
  - B. by describing how his plays have been changed in modern times
  - C. by giving specific details about the different types of plays he wrote
  - D. by providing information about when his first collection was published
13. Which sentence BEST states the main idea of *Shakespeare's Words*?
- A. Shakespeare was a great storyteller who wrote many plays and poems during the 1700s that are still popular today.
  - B. Shakespeare created new phrases such as "wild-geese chase" as well as new words such as *unagreeable* and *fashionable* by using prefixes and suffixes.
  - C. Shakespeare's *First Folio* is a catalog of his best plays, including *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Hamlet*, which are still performed in theaters today.
  - D. Shakespeare wrote a variety of plays, sonnets, and poems during his career, created many phrases, and is credited with inventing 1,700 new words in the English language.

## READING - ITEM TYPE SAMPLER

---

14. Which information about Shakespeare's use of language is found in BOTH passages?
- A. He invented many new phrases.
  - B. He used prefixes and suffixes in new ways.
  - C. He took many words from mythological stories.
  - D. He used words to express emotions such as love and jealousy.
15. Which viewpoint about Shakespeare do BOTH authors share?
- A. Shakespeare wanted to keep his work private.
  - B. Shakespeare wrote plays that offended some people.
  - C. Shakespeare's work has thrived throughout the centuries.
  - D. Shakespeare's involvement in an acting group was inspiration for his work.



# Maine Through Year Assessment Grades 3 – 5

## Paper Item Type Sampler Answer Key

### Reading

---

Sequence	Grade	Key	Points
1.	4	C	1
2.	4	B	1
3.	4	C	1
4.	4	B	1
5.	4	D	1
6.	5	C, D	2
		One correct with no incorrect or One correct and one incorrect	1
7.	5	C	1
8.	5	D, E	2
		One correct with no incorrect or One correct and one incorrect	1
9.	5	D	1
10.	5	Part A: C Part B: D	2
		Part A Only	1
11.	5	D	1
12.	5	A	1
13.	5	D	1
14.	5	A	1
15.	5	C	1