

Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program

TCAP

English Language Arts Grade 4 Item Release



Read the passage and answer the questions that follow. Mark your answers in your answer document.

Excerpt from *The Mystery of the Hot Air Balloon*

by Gertrude Chandler Warner

- 1 Just then, a shadow fell across the kitchen. The room grew dark. Watch's ears perked up. He whined and scooted under the table. The dog never acted like that without a reason.
- 2 Jessie pushed herself away from the table. "Maybe there *is* something out there," she said.
- 3 Violet put down her paintbrush.
- 4 Henry closed the cookbook and went to the door. He saw something hovering over the lawn. "It's an aerostat!" he said, his voice full of surprise and wonder.
- 5 "It looks like a big balloon to me," Benny said.
- 6 "An aerostat *is* a balloon," Henry told him, but Benny didn't hear him. He was already running outside.
- 7 Henry, Jessie, and Violet dashed after him.
- 8 A large basket hung below the balloon. Two people were inside it. Ropes hung from its sides.
- 9 "Grab those ropes!" Henry called.



10 Jessie reached out and took hold of a dangling rope. Violet and Jessie each
11 grabbed other lines.

12 “Hold on tight!” Henry instructed.

13 The basket thumped to the ground and bounced.

14 Henry ran toward the collapsing balloon. He caught hold of a line at its crown.

15 The basket stopped moving and tipped over.

16 Afraid someone was hurt, Jessie gasped and put her hands over her eyes.

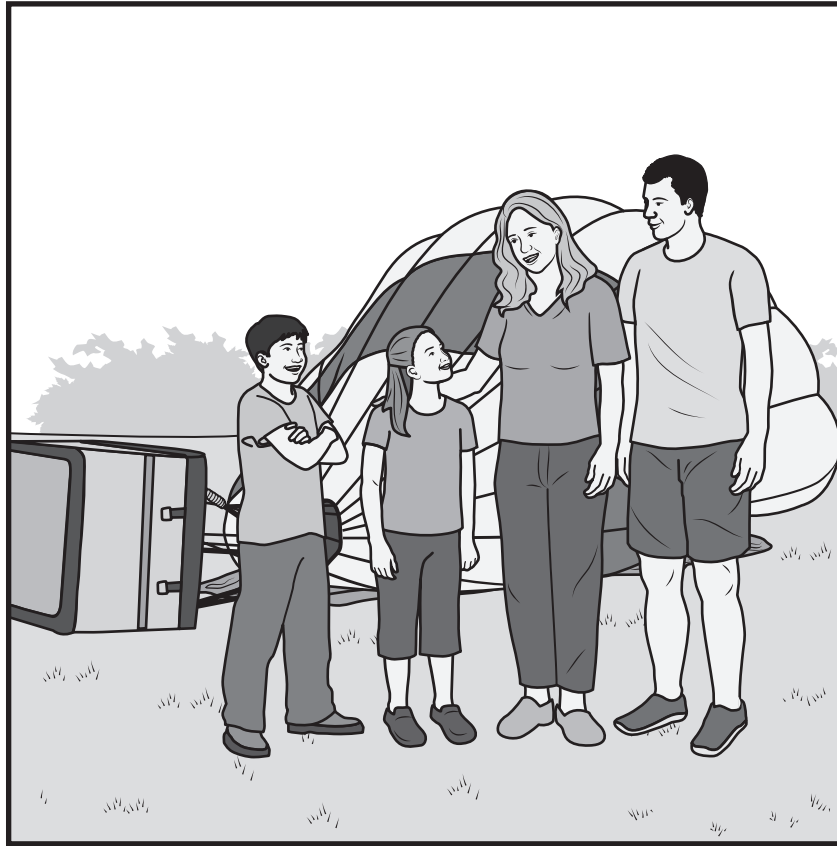
17 Laughing, a young man and woman in their late twenties crawled out.

18 “Are you all right?” Jessie asked.

19 “We’re fine,” the young woman assured Jessie. “Thanks to you.”

20 Henry stepped forward. “Glad to help,” he said. He extended his hand. “I’m
21 Henry James Alden.”

20 The woman smiled as she shook Henry's hand. "I'm Sky Blair." She turned to the young man at her side. "And this is Matt Farber."



21 "Sky!" Benny blurted out. "Your name is *Sky*?"

22 "Benny, remember your manners," Violet warned.

23 "Oh, it's all right," Sky said. "Everybody reacts like that." She smiled at Benny. "My parents wanted an unusual name. They didn't know I'd end up as a balloon pilot."

24 Henry introduced his sisters and brother.

25 "We're happy to meet you," he said.

26 Matt laughed. "I'll bet you've never met anyone who landed on your lawn before."

27 "Never!" the Aldens all said at once.

28 "We didn't intend to land here," Sky said. "A sudden gust of wind blew us off course."

29 "Don't you have a steering wheel or something?" Benny asked.

30 Sky rolled her blue eyes. "Don't I wish," she answered.

31 "An aerostat is pretty much at the mercy of the breezes," Jessie said.

32 "You seem to know a lot about ballooning," Matt said.

33 "I'm reading a book on the history of flight," Jessie explained. "I just finished the section on hot air balloons, and now a balloon lands on the lawn!"

34 "Where'd you come from?" Benny asked Sky.

35 "Lloyd's Landing," she told him.

36 "How will you get back?" Violet asked.

37 "That's a problem," Matt answered. "We lost contact with our chase crew."

38 "Chase crew?" Benny repeated.

39 "Every flight is followed by a ground crew," Sky explained. "They meet us at the landing site."

40 "We use two-way radios to keep in touch," Matt said. "Something happened to ours. I think the batteries gave out."

41 Henry invited them inside.

42 While they waited for the chase crew, Matt and Sky drank lemonade and talked about ballooning.

43 "We're going to start a ballooning business in Lloyd's Landing. We'll take people up for rides and also teach them how to balloon," Sky told them. "It's the perfect place to do this."

44 "And we're holding a rally this weekend to advertise the opening," Matt added.

45 "Will there be lots of people there?" Benny asked. He imagined the sky full of colorful balloons. What a sight that must be!

46 Matt laughed. "We hope so."

47 "How would you like to come to the rally?" Sky asked. "We could use your help."

48 "You're a good crew," Matt agreed. "And when the rally's over, we'll take you up in the balloon."

49 Benny's eyes grew big. This was the adventure he had hoped for. "We'll be there!"

Excerpt from *The Mystery of the Hot Air Balloon* by Gertrude Chandler Warner from A. Whitman. 1995. pp 6–13. Copyright © 1995. Used by permission of the publisher via Copyright Clearance Center.

- 00.** Which sentence from the passage **best** shows that good deeds are often rewarded?
- A.** “‘We’re going to start a ballooning business in Lloyd’s Landing.’” (paragraph 43)
 - B.** “‘We’ll take people up for rides and also teach them how to balloon,’ Sky told them.” (paragraph 43)
 - C.** “He imagined the sky full of colorful balloons.” (paragraph 45)
 - D.** “‘And when the rally’s over, we’ll take you up in the balloon.’” (paragraph 48)

- 00.** Which sentence should be included in a summary of the passage?
- A.** Henry sees a hot air balloon floating over the lawn.
 - B.** Jessie gasps because she fears someone is hurt.
 - C.** Benny is surprised that the balloon pilot is named Sky.
 - D.** Matt explains that he and Sky use a radio to talk with their crew.

- 00.** In paragraphs 43–49, how does the author **most** show that the balloon rally is a thrilling event?
- A.** by describing Benny’s thoughts
 - B.** by describing Matt’s praise for the children
 - C.** by describing Sky’s idea for a business
 - D.** by describing Lloyd’s Landing

- 00.** The following item has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

Part A

Which statement **best** describes Benny?

- A.** He likes it when exciting things happen.
- B.** He likes to argue with the other children.
- C.** He becomes worried when things go wrong.
- D.** He is uncomfortable around new people.

Part B

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A.** "'It looks like a big balloon to me,' Benny said." (paragraph 5)
- B.** "'Your name is *Sky*?'" (paragraph 21)
- C.** "'Don't you have a steering wheel or something?' Benny asked." (paragraph 29)
- D.** "This was the adventure he had hoped for." (paragraph 49)

- 00.** What do Henry's actions and words in paragraphs 5–13 **most** show about him?
- A.** He enjoys unexpected events.
 - B.** He is comfortable being a leader.
 - C.** He believes he is very smart.
 - D.** He is bothered by the other children.

00. What is the meaning of the word intend in paragraph 28?

- A.** admit
- B.** know
- C.** plan
- D.** offer

Metadata- English

Passage

Passage UIN	Grade	Passage Title	Lexile Level	Flesch-Kincaid	Word Count
TN0008075	04	Excerpt from The Mystery of the Hot Air Balloon	560L	2.7	652

Metadata Definitions:

Passage UIN	Unique letter/number code used to identify the passage(s) that go with this item.
Grade	Grade level or Course.
Passage Title	Title of the passage(s) associated with this item.
Lexile Level	Readability level for passage.
Flesch-Kincaid	Readability level for passage.
Word Count	Count of words in the passage.

Items

Page Number	UIN	Grade	Item Type	Key	DOK	TN Standards
9	TN0034000	04	MC	D	2	4.RL.KID.1
10	TN0034001	04	MC	A	2	4.RL.KID.2
11	TN0034002	04	MC	A	3	4.RL.KID.3
12	TN0034003	04	MC	A, D	3	4.RL.KID.3
13	TN0034007	04	MC	B	2	4.RL.KID.3
14	TN0034015	04	MC	C	2	4.FL.VA.7a.i

Metadata Definitions:

UIN	Unique letter/number code used to identify the item.
Grade	Grade level or Course.
Item Type	Indicates the type of item. MC= Multiple Choice
Key	Correct answer. This may be blank for constructed response items where students write or type their responses.
DOK	Depth of Knowledge (cognitive complexity) is measured on a three-point scale. 1 = Recall or simple reproduction of information; 2 = Skills and concepts: comprehension and processing of text; 3 = Strategic thinking, prediction, elaboration.
TN Standards	Primary educational standard assessed.