

Maryland MCAP Grade 4 English Language Arts Practice

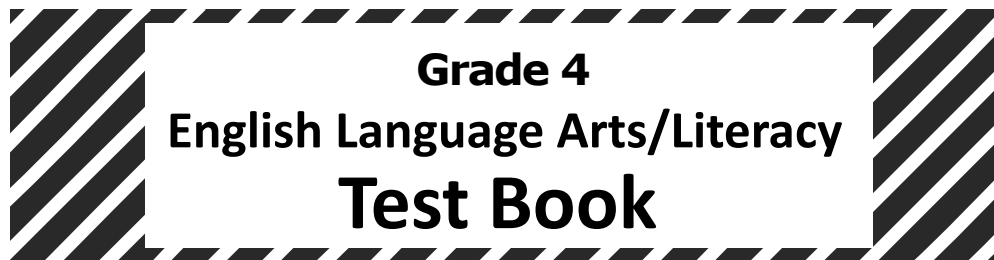
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Student Name _____



Maryland Comprehensive
Assessment Program



Practice Test

TEST BOOKLET SECURITY BARCODE

Section 1

Directions:

Today, you will take Section 1 of the Grade 4 English Language Arts/Literacy Practice Test.

Read each passage and question. Then, follow the directions to answer each question. Mark your answers by completely filling in the circles in your answer document. Do not make any pencil marks outside of the circles. If you need to change an answer, be sure to erase your first answer completely.

If you do not know the answer to a question, you may go on to the next question. If you finish early, you may review your answers and any questions you did not answer in this Section ONLY. Do not go past the stop sign.

Read the passage “Gisela’s Dream Dance.” Then answer the questions.

Gisela’s Dream Dance

by Fabiola Santiago

- 1 In the morning of Gisela’s dance recital, a bird’s chirping woke her up. Gisela hopped out of bed and followed the bird’s song to the window. She flung open her curtains and saw a blue jay near her mother’s purple, red, and orange flowers.
- 2 Gisela smiled. Then her eye began to twitch, the way it always did when she got jittery. Today, Gisela was performing with her dance troupe, The Jewels.
- 3 Gisela wanted to be a great ballerina. But when she looked in the mirror, she found her body too round, too short, too different from the pencil-thin ballerinas she had seen at the Miami City Ballet.
- 4 She was thinking about this when her mother walked in. “Ready for the big day?”
- 5 “Ay, Mami, I’m nervous,” she confessed.
- 6 Mami assured Gisela that everyone feels butterflies before a performance. “You’ve practiced a lot. You dance beautifully. Let’s get you dressed.”
- 7 Gisela couldn’t bring herself to tell Mami what really troubled her heart. She slipped into a lime-green bodysuit and a skirt shaped like an open umbrella. Ballet shoes and a tiara of twinkling stones made Gisela a picture-perfect ballerina. *Almost perfect*, she thought when she looked in the mirror.
- 8 During the drive to the recital, Gisela was quiet. Mami and Abuela did the talking. Papi drove.
- 9 Before Gisela was born, her family had lived in Cuba. They’d never missed a ballet performance. When they moved to the United States, the family had to work hard to start new lives. For a long time, they had only Abuela’s stories to remember the ballet.
- 10 Abuela made Cuba sound grand—blue water, bright skies, and palm trees that sang in the breeze. But her stories about the ballet were the best.
- 11 Sitting in the back of the car next to Abuela, Gisela asked, “Will you tell one of your stories?”

- 12 Abuela didn't need any begging. "Everyone loved the prima ballerina," she began. "She was the only star—until one day there came a new dancer. There was something different about the new girl. She danced with *alma*—with soul."



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- 13 "The theater was packed whenever she danced. The prima ballerina became jealous and banished the new girl to dance only on Thursdays, when people were too busy for ballet. But people came even on Thursdays, even when it was raining. Their shouts of '*¡Bravo!*' could be heard for blocks. The girl had a beautiful soul, and everyone could see that."
- 14 Gisela loved the story so much that she applauded. She didn't notice that her eye had stopped twitching. That was a good thing, because Papi was parking the car and The Jewels were first onstage.
- 15 Gisela took her place among the other ballerinas. For a second, she was nervous. But then she stretched her left leg, pointed her toes, and flung her arms out in a lovely arc.
- 16 She was ready. The curtain rose and Gisela listened for the first notes. The music filled her heart with a special feeling. "Dreams are like flowers that bloom in your heart," the song said.

- 17 As the music soared, so did Gisela's soul. Gisela knew her routine. She had practiced many times. Her arms and legs knew what to do, and she felt as light as a bird among the flowers. As she twirled during her solo, Gisela could hear Mami and Abuela cheering.
- 18 Gisela danced with all her soul.
- 19 When the curtain came down, she could hear Papi's voice above the others: "Bravo! Bravo, my Gisela!"
- 20 Gisela bowed and smiled. Being Gisela felt good.



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"Gisela's Dream Dance" by Fabiola Santiago. Copyright 2014 by Highlights for Children, Inc. Reproduced with permission of Highlights for Children, Inc. via Copyright Clearance Center.

- 1 Read the sentence from paragraph 13 of the passage.

“The prima ballerina became jealous and **banished** the new girl to dance only on Thursdays, when people were too busy for ballet.”

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

- A removed
- B invited
- C suggested
- D required

2 **Part A**

Which word **best** describes how Gisela’s family feels about her dream of becoming a great ballerina?

- A concerned
- B surprised
- C supportive
- D curious

Part B

Select **two** details from the passage that **best** support the correct answer to Part A.

- A “She was thinking about this when her mother walked in. ‘Ready for the big day?’” (paragraph 4)
- B “‘You’ve practiced a lot. You dance beautifully. Let’s get you dressed.’” (paragraph 6)
- C “They’d never missed a ballet performance.” (paragraph 9)
- D “Abuela didn’t need any begging.” (paragraph 12)
- E “As she twirled during her solo, Gisela could hear Mami and Abuela cheering.” (paragraph 17)

- 3 Which **three** details from the passage show that Gisela is worried about how she compares to other ballerinas?
- A “Then her eye began to twitch, the way it always did when she got jittery.” (paragraph 2)
 - B “But when she looked in the mirror, she found her body too round, too short, too different from the pencil-thin ballerinas she had seen at the Miami City Ballet.” (paragraph 3)
 - C “‘Ay, Mami, I’m nervous,’ she confessed.” (paragraph 5)
 - D “Gisela couldn’t bring herself to tell Mami what really troubled her heart.” (paragraph 7)
 - E “*Almost perfect*, she thought when she looked in the mirror.” (paragraph 7)
 - F “During the drive to the recital, Gisela was quiet.” (paragraph 8)
- 4 Which statement describes **one** way that Gisela and the new girl in Abuela’s story are alike?
- A They are both famous dancers.
 - B They both dance with soul.
 - C They both feel nervous before performing.
 - D They are both envied by other dancers.
- 5 Gisela feels confident once she begins to dance because
- A she knows her parents are in the audience.
 - B she practiced the dance many times.
 - C Abuela’s story keeps running through her mind.
 - D the other dancers calm her down.

6 Part A

Based on the passage, the new dancer in Abuela's story

- A** feels as worried as Gisela about how she looked.
- B** prefers to dance for smaller crowds on Thursdays.
- C** wants to become as famous as the prima ballerina.
- D** is much more popular than the prima ballerina.

Part B

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

- A** "“She was the only star—until one day there came a new dancer.””
(paragraph 12)
- B** "“There was something different about the new girl.”” (paragraph 12)
- C** "“But people came even on Thursdays, even when it was raining.””
(paragraph 13)
- D** "“The girl had a beautiful soul and everyone could see that.”” (paragraph 13)

7 Part A

What is **one** theme of the passage?

- A** Pay attention to others.
- B** Grandparents have wisdom to share.
- C** Meeting other people’s expectations is hard.
- D** Learn to love who you are.

Part B

Select **two** details that **best** support the correct answer to Part A.

- A** “Gisela took her place among the other ballerinas.” (paragraph 15)
- B** “Gisela knew her routine.” (paragraph 17)
- C** “Gisela danced with all her soul.” (paragraph 18)
- D** “When the curtain came down, she could hear Papi’s voice above the others. . . .” (paragraph 19)
- E** “Being Gisela felt good.” (paragraph 20)

Read the passage “Best Job in the World.” Then answer the questions.

Best Job in the World

by Charlie Campbell



Used with permission.

- 1 Meet Huang Shunjie. He might have the best job in the world. The 24-year-old is a panda photographer and zookeeper. Huang spends each day caring for 18 panda cubs at the Giant Panda Protection and Research Center, in China. He prepares their meals of bamboo and milk formula. He checks on their growth and health. And he carries these two-tone fluff-balls between their sleeping pens and their public enclosure.
- 2 The best part? “I can get very close to the baby pandas, which makes many people jealous,” Huang told *TIME*. “I get to hug them all the time.”
- 3 There are, of course, bad parts to any job. In Huang’s case, it’s the regular bites and scratches he gets from the 45- to 55-pound bears. But it’s a small price to pay to spend each day among the pandas’ roly-poly cuteness. They tumble around, balance on their heads, and bop around like furry toddlers. “I’m a full-time daddy for these fluffy baby pandas,” says Huang.



Used with permission.

He-He and Mei-Mei

- 4 Two of the pandas Huang cares for are known worldwide. He-He and Mei-Mei celebrated their first birthday on July 25. They are the only twin pandas born from a wild father and captive mother. This helps widen the animal's genetic pool, which means a better chance at survival. Pandas were among the world's most threatened animals until recently.
- 5 "Mei-Mei is very cute and clingy," says Huang. "But her brother is very naughty. He is one of the wild kids. He loves making trouble."
- 6 Giant pandas are native to China. For many years, they were one of the world's most endangered creatures. Their natural habitat, in bamboo forests, has been destroyed by construction. Pandas must eat 30 to 85 pounds of bamboo every day.
- 7 But populations have recovered in recent years. That's thanks to programs to help pandas breed. Today, there are 1,864 pandas in the wild. That's up from only 1,114 in the 1970s, according to China's National Forestry and Grassland Administration. Two-thirds of them live in nature reserves.

Panda Diplomacy

- 8 As the number of pandas goes up, China is able to send more of them overseas. This is called “panda diplomacy¹.” It began in the seventh century, when China sent a pair of pandas to Emperor Tenmu, of Japan. Today, more than 50 pandas live in 18 countries.
- 9 Most famously, China sent a pair of pandas—Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing—to the United States after President Richard Nixon’s historic visit to China, in 1972. More recently, two pandas were sent to the Moscow Zoo, in Russia, just last month.
- 10 China usually sends pandas to other countries for 10 years. It charges about \$1 million per year for the service. Any offspring remain China’s property. The loans often take place along with international trade deals that China’s involved in. But if a deal goes sour², China may take the pandas back.
- 11 Huang doesn’t think about money or politics, though. He thinks about the fact that the pandas he cares for end up bringing joy to millions of adults and children around the globe. “I’m really proud of that,” he says.

“Best Job in the World” by Charlie Campbell. Copyright 2019 by Time, Inc. Reproduced with permission of Time, Inc. via Copyright Clearance Center.

¹**diplomacy:** keeping good relationships between countries

²**deal goes sour:** Deal goes bad.

- 8 In paragraph 1, the author states, “And he carries these two-tone fluff-balls between their sleeping pens and their public enclosure.” This means that
- A the pandas move around a lot.
 - B the pandas need help walking.
 - C the pandas sleep more when they are outside.
 - D the pandas sleep and play in different places.
- 9 In paragraph 2, Huang uses the word **jealous** to show that people
- A wish they had his job.
 - B think he does a good job.
 - C are thankful that he does his job.
 - D would be upset if he left his job.
- 10 Read this sentence from paragraph 3.

“I’m a full-time daddy for these fluffy baby pandas,” says Huang.

Which **two** details **best** support Huang’s statement?

- A “He might have the best job in the world.” (paragraph 1)
- B “The 24-year-old is a panda photographer and zookeeper.” (paragraph 1)
- C “He prepares their meals of bamboo and milk formula.” (paragraph 1)
- D “I get to hug them all the time.” (paragraph 2)

11 Read the sentence from paragraph 4 of the passage.

They are the only twin pandas born from a wild father and **captive** mother.

In this sentence, pandas that are **captive** are

- A calm near humans.
- B dangerous to humans.
- C cared for by humans.
- D loving toward humans.

12 Part A

Based on information in the passage, what was the **best** solution to saving the pandas?

- A providing specialized training to zookeepers who work with pandas
- B finding new environments where pandas can safely live
- C widening the genetic pool by developing breeding programs
- D sending pandas across the world to create greater awareness

Part B

Which detail **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A "Huang spends each day caring for 18 panda cubs at the Giant Panda Protection and Research Center, in China." (paragraph 1)
- B "This helps widen the animal's genetic pool, which means a better chance at survival." (paragraph 4)
- C "Pandas must eat 30 to 85 pounds of bamboo every day." (paragraph 6)
- D "Today, more than 50 pandas live in 18 countries." (paragraph 8)

- 13** Read the sentence from paragraph 6 of the passage.

Giant pandas are **native** to China.

In this sentence, **native** means that pandas

- A** live in China.
 - B** travel to China.
 - C** are symbols of China.
 - D** can only survive in China.
- 14** Which structure does the author use to organize paragraphs 6 through 8 of the passage?
- A** chronology
 - B** cause/effect
 - C** problem/solution
 - D** comparison

15 Part A

In paragraph 10, the author writes, “Any offspring remain China’s property.” This means that

- A** pandas can stay in the country where they are sent.
- B** baby pandas that are born in other countries belong to China.
- C** pandas are not allowed to leave China.
- D** China does not own any of the pandas born in other countries.

Part B

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

- A** “This is called ‘panda diplomacy.’” (paragraph 8)
- B** “Today, more than 50 pandas live in 18 countries.” (paragraph 8)
- C** “It charges about \$1 million per year for the service.” (paragraph 10)
- D** “But if a deal goes sour, China may take the pandas back.” (paragraph 10)

16 What does the second picture in the passage help the reader understand?

- A** Humans are important to pandas’ survival.
- B** Humans help build new habitats for pandas.
- C** Pandas are dangerous to humans.
- D** Pandas are bred in other countries.



Section 2

Directions:

Today, you will take Section 2 of the Grade 4 English Language Arts/Literacy Practice Test.

Read each passage and question. Then, follow the directions to answer each question. Mark your answers by completely filling in the circles in your answer document. Do not make any pencil marks outside of the circles. If you need to change an answer, be sure to erase your first answer completely.

One of the questions may ask you to write a response. Write your response in the space provided in your answer document. Only responses written within the space provided will be scored.

If you do not know the answer to a question, you may go on to the next question. If you finish early, you may review your answers and any questions you did not answer in this Section ONLY. Do not go past the stop sign.

Today you will read the poem “Why is Nita Upside Down?” and the play *Why the Platypus is Special*. Then you will answer questions about the passages and write a response in which you analyze both texts.

Read the poem “Why is Nita Upside Down?” Then answer the questions.

“Why is Nita Upside Down?”

by Emma Hearne, Roxana Bouwer, Sarah Bouwer



- 1 Nita's hanging upside down, her long hair tickling at the ground. The trees, the grass, the everything is all the wrong way round.
- 2 Her feet, they poke in the sky. Little Navi is walking by.
- 3 He says, "I've seen you here before. You're upside down again! What for?"
- 4 Her feet swim lightly in the air. She tries to hide behind her hair.
- 5 "It's h-h-h-hard to t-t-talk," she says to him. "I'm not the same. I don't fit in."
- 6 Navi takes her by the hand. He wants to help her understand.

- 7 They climb to Navi's look-out spot. From up here they can see a lot.
- 8 They perch and have a quiet stare at children playing here and there.



Used with permission.

- 9 Those kids are not the same at all.
- 10 Abe's round.
- 11 Chi's freckled.
- 12 Lala's extra-tall.
- 13 BamBam's wild and must run free, while Lulu reads quietly.
- 14 Look at Freya's crazy hair. And Tim wears glasses everywhere.
- 15 And me, I am just skin and bone. And you are you. You're not alone.
- 16 Each human's sort of strange, you see. That makes you just the same, like me.
- 17 This world is really one big game. To play, we can't all be the same.



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18 Nita feels the right way round, thanks to the new friend she's found.

19 Upside down was never fun. Now she plays with everyone.

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1 Part A

Read the sentence from line 8 of the poem.

They **perch** and have a quiet stare at children playing here and there.

The word **perch** means that Nita and Navi are

- A** playing on the swings.
- B** hanging upside down.
- C** walking around in silence.
- D** sitting above the playground.

Part B

Which evidence from the poem **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A** “Her feet, they poke in the sky.” (line 2)
- B** “Her feet swim lightly in the air.” (line 4)
- C** “He wants to help her understand.” (line 6)
- D** “From up here they can see a lot.” (line 7)

2 Part A

In the poem, why does Nita hang upside down and hide behind her hair?

- A** She enjoys playing at the playground by herself.
- B** She feels like she is different from others.
- C** She likes the way it makes her hair feel.
- D** She wants everyone to see her hanging upside down.

Part B

Which detail from the poem **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A** “. . . her long hair tickling at the ground.” (line 1)
- B** “Her feet, they poke in the sky.” (line 2)
- C** “He says, ‘I’ve seen you here before.’” (line 3)
- D** “‘I’m not the same. I don’t fit in.’” (line 5)

3 Part A

Which sentence **best** states one theme in the poem?

- A** Differences are useful.
- B** Differences can be frightening.
- C** Differences can be healthy.
- D** Differences should be ignored.

Part B

Which detail from the poem **best** shows this theme?

- A** “‘You’re upside down again! What for?’” (line 3)
- B** “She tries to hide behind her hair.” (line 4)
- C** “Those kids are not the same at all.” (line 9)
- D** “To play, we can’t all be the same.” (line 17)

Read the play *Why the Platypus is Special*. Then answer the questions.

Why the Platypus is Special

by Pat Betteley

CHARACTERS:

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Rainbow Serpent

Big Bagaray

Kangaroo's Wife

Platypus

Goodoo

Fish's Wife

Bungil

Eagle's Wife, Hunter

- 1 **NARRATOR 1:** Long ago, during the Dreamtime, the Rainbow Serpent made three different types of animals. First, Mammals were created. The Rainbow Serpent told them . . .
- 2 **RAINBOW SERPENT:** You will live on land and enjoy a special gift for survival—fur to keep warm.
- 3 **NARRATOR 1:** Next, the Rainbow Serpent made Fish. He told them . . .
- 4 **RAINBOW SERPENT:** You will live in water and enjoy a special gift for survival—gills to help you breathe underwater.
- 5 **NARRATOR 1:** Then the Rainbow Serpent made Birds. He said to them . . .
- 6 **RAINBOW SERPENT:** You will live in the sky and enjoy special gifts for survival—wings to fly and the ability to reproduce by laying eggs.
- 7 **NARRATOR 2:** After the Rainbow Serpent had finished making the three different types of animals, he realized that he had a lot of pieces and parts left over. He joined them together to create a creature unlike any other in the world. He said . . .
- 8 **RAINBOW SERPENT:** You will be called Platypus. I have given you three special gifts to survive. Like the Mammal, you have fur. Like the Fish, you can swim under the water. And like the Bird, the mother Platypus can lay eggs.
- 9 **NARRATOR 2:** At first, things went along swimmingly for Fish. Birds were on top of the world and Mammals felt all warm and fuzzy. But then, they all began to quarrel about which group was the best. The Mammals called a meeting.

- 10 **BIG BAGARAY:** (thumping his kangaroo tail on the ground) Attention, everyone. I proclaim that Mammals are the greatest of all animals! Only WE have fur!
- 11 **KANGAROO’S WIFE:** Aren’t you forgetting someone, husband? The Platypus has fur. Why not pay him a visit? We can ask him to join in our fight against the Fish and the Birds.
- 12 **NARRATOR 2:** So the Mammals visited Platypus and asked him to stand with them.
- 13 **PLATYPUS:** I will carefully consider your request. Thank you for asking me to be a part of your family.
- 14 **NARRATOR 1:** Meanwhile, a big Murray Cod was speaking at his own meeting.
- 15 **Goodoo:** (jumping out of the water) My fine, finned fellows, it is obvious that Fish are the greatest of all animals. After all, only WE can swim underwater.
- 16 **FISH’S WIFE:** (clearing her throat) A-hem. Husband, what about the Platypus? He also spends most of his life underwater. Maybe we should visit Platypus and ask him to join in our fight against Mammals and Birds.
- 17 **NARRATOR 1:** So, all of the Fish paid a visit to Platypus to ask him to join their cause.
- 18 **PLATYPUS:** I will carefully consider your request. Thank you for asking me to be a part of your family.
- 19 **NARRATOR 1:** A few days later, the Birds held a similar meeting.
- 20 **BUNGIL:** (flapping his wings) Hear ye, hear ye. Anyone can see that Birds are the greatest of all animals. Who else can fly and lay eggs?
- 21 **EAGLE’S WIFE:** There IS another creature that lays eggs, Husband—our friend, Platypus. We should go to him and ask him to join the Birds in our fight against the Mammals and Fish.
- 22 **NARRATOR 2:** The Birds flew off to pay Platypus a visit and asked him to join their cause.
- 23 **PLATYPUS:** I will carefully consider your request. Thank you for asking me to be a part of your family.

- 24 **NARRATOR 2:** As promised, Platypus carefully considered which group to join. But after much thought, he still couldn't decide. Finally, the animals got tired of waiting. All three groups gathered outside his home on the bank of the billabong¹.
- 25 **BIG BAGARAY:** Join the best of the best—the Mammals!
- 26 **GOODOO:** No, join the most special—the Fish.
- 27 **BUNGIL:** Forget them! Join the best AND most special—the Birds.
- 28 **NARRATOR 2:** Finally, in the cool evening, Platypus came outside. Everyone grew silent.
- 29 **PLATYPUS:** My friends, I have decided. I have parts of EACH of you, and parts of ALL of you. And that is exactly the way I wish to stay. So, while I thank you for asking, I choose not to join any of you.
- 30 **KANGAROO'S WIFE:** Well, I never . . .
- 31 **FISH'S WIFE:** The nerve!
- 32 **EAGLE'S WIFE:** What kind of an answer is that?
- 33 **PLATYPUS:** Let me explain, friends. The Rainbow Serpent made each of us different from the others. Each of us is special. But just because we're special, that doesn't make any of us better than the others. We're just different. So we ought to respect each other, celebrate our differences, and live together WITHOUT fighting.
- 34 **BIG BAGARAY:** He's right.
- 35 **GOODOO:** That was a good decision.
- 36 **BUNGIL:** You are very wise, friend Platypus!
- 37 **NARRATOR 2:** Now, by chance, a hunter was listening to Platypus talking to the animals that evening.
- 38 **HUNTER:** Impressive! I will go back to my people and tell them about the extraordinary wisdom of the Platypus.

¹**billabong:** a pool of water made from a stream or flooding.

39 **NARRATOR 1:** That is why Aboriginal Australians rarely hunt or kill a Platypus.

Adapted from, “Why Is the Platypus Special?” Retold by Pat Betteley, *Faces*,
January 2013

- 4 What does the word **quarrel** in line 9 of the play help the reader understand about the relationship between the Mammals, Fish, and Birds?
- A They are getting to know each other.
 - B They are having a disagreement.
 - C They are the best of friends.
 - D They are talking with one another.
- 5 Which quotation from the play *Why the Platypus is Special* **best** supports the idea that the Platypus makes a good decision?
- A “As promised, Platypus carefully considered which group to join.” (line 24)
 - B “Finally, in the cool evening, Platypus came outside.” (line 28)
 - C “Now, by chance, a hunter was listening to Platypus talking to the animals that evening.” (line 37)
 - D “I will go back to my people and tell them about the extraordinary wisdom of the Platypus.” (line 38)
- 6 Which definition **best** matches the use of the word **nerve** as it is used in line 31 of the play?
- A power of endurance or control
 - B fearless boldness
 - C behavior marked by a rude or disrespectful tone
 - D a sore or sensitive point

- 7 Which sentence from the play *Why the Platypus is Special* **best** supports the idea that Platypus appreciates his friends because of their differences?
- A “I have parts of EACH of you, and parts of ALL of you. And that is exactly the way I wish to stay.” (line 29)
 - B “So, while I thank you for asking, I choose not to join any of you.” (line 29)
 - C “What kind of an answer is that?” (line 32)
 - D “Each of us is special.” (line 33)

Refer to the poem “Why is Nita Upside Down?” and the play *Why the Platypus is Special*. Then answer the questions.

- 8** Read the sentences Platypus repeats throughout *Why the Platypus is Special*.

I will carefully consider your request. Thank you for asking me to be a part of your family.

These words show that Platypus is similar to Navi in the poem “Why is Nita Upside Down?” because

- A** they both take their time to answer their friends.
- B** they both are kind to their friends.
- C** they both have difficulty understanding their friends.
- D** they both feel frustrated with their friends.

- 9 “Why is Nita Upside Down?” and *Why the Platypus is Special* are both about being different. Write an essay that explains how the idea of being different is shown in both passages. Include specific details from **both** the poem and the play to support your answer.



Section 3

Directions:

Today, you will take Section 3 of the Grade 4 English Language Arts/Literacy Practice Test.

Read each passage and question. Then, follow the directions to answer each question. Mark your answers by completely filling in the circles in your answer document. Do not make any pencil marks outside of the circles. If you need to change an answer, be sure to erase your first answer completely.

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Read the passages. You will then answer questions about the passages. Finally, you will write a response.

An Amazing Airy Adventure

by Michelle Burchett

- 1 Imagine jogging early in the morning and hearing voices above you in the sky. Surprised, you look up. A colorful hot air balloon floats peacefully. People in the basket laugh and wave. You wave back.
- 2 Have you ever wondered what it would be like to ride in one of those big, bright balloons? From a distance, it looks exciting. Up close, it's more than exciting. It's an adventure!
- 3 The adventure usually starts before dawn, while it's still dark. Why so early in the morning? Winds tend to be calmest during the first two or three hours of the day, before the sun heats the earth. This gives the pilots the best conditions for launching, flying, and landing.
- 4 Excitement is in the air as the crew pulls the basket out of the trailer and lays it on its side. The basket is made of woven cane that is extremely sturdy but flexible and relatively lightweight. This is where the passengers and the pilot will ride. After the basket is in place, the crew pulls the folded-up balloon—called the envelope—out of its bag and attaches it to the basket. The balloon is ready to be inflated.
- 5 First, cold air is blown into the envelope using big gas-powered fans. Brightly colored nylon fabric billows as the balloon swells and expands. It only takes about ten minutes to fill the envelope, which is amazing considering that some balloons can hold up to 250,000 cubic feet of air. That's like inflating 250,000 soccer balls!
- 6 Next begins the "burn" to heat the air inside the envelope. The pilot ignites a large propane burner located above the basket.
- 7 When the air is warmed enough for the envelope to rise and lift the basket upright, the passengers, many enjoying their first balloon ride, quickly climb in. The passengers act as ballast—a stabilizing¹ weight—to help keep the balloon on the ground until it's ready to launch. For safety, the balloon is also tied-off, or tethered², to the van.

¹**stabilizing:** balancing

²**tethered:** tied to

- 8 The pilot repeats safety and landing instructions. After a quick radio check with the “chasers”—members of the crew who will follow the balloon in the van—everyone’s ready for the launch. By this time, the sun is just rising. Since balloons are not equipped with lights, they cannot launch until official sunrise.
- 9 The pilot heats the air a little more. The tie-off is released, and balloon and passengers float up, up, up. Lifting off as the sun rises is amazing. The dawn sky is streaked with brilliant colors, and the balloon becomes part of the spectacle as it joins the sun on its morning trek across the sky. Hot air balloons drift at the same speed as the wind, so there’s no sensation of movement. It feels like you’re floating in a bubble.
- 10 Experienced pilots are very good at “reading the wind.” At different elevations, the wind moves in different directions and at different speeds. By firing the burners to heat the air inside the envelope, or by allowing the hot air to cool instead, the pilot is able to cause the balloon to go up or down in order to catch the different winds. This is the pilot’s only way of steering. The pilot can also pull a cord to open a flap, or vent, on the upper side of the envelope. The escaping air causes the balloon to rotate so that all the passengers can have a good view and take pictures of the incredible sights. It is especially fun spotting wildlife from the air. Imagine flying over an osprey nest and seeing the babies inside, or watching a beaver building its dam on a wilderness stream!
- 11 After about forty-five minutes, the pilot begins looking for a good place to land. The site has to be free of obstructions, such as trees and telephone wires, and big enough to lay out the enormous balloon. It also has to be accessible to the chasers, who have been following on the ground and keeping in radio contact.
- 12 When the pilot spots an open field, he asks the chasers to make sure it is not planted with crops that might be harmed by landing. If the chasers have difficulty finding an access road, the pilot guides them from his aerial viewpoint.
- 13 Passengers are amazed at how softly the balloon sets down. Usually everyone laughs as they jostle together, holding on to the rope handles on the inside of the basket. The flexibility of the cane basket now shows its usefulness. As the wicker material flexes, it absorbs some of the impact with the ground, making for a softer landing.



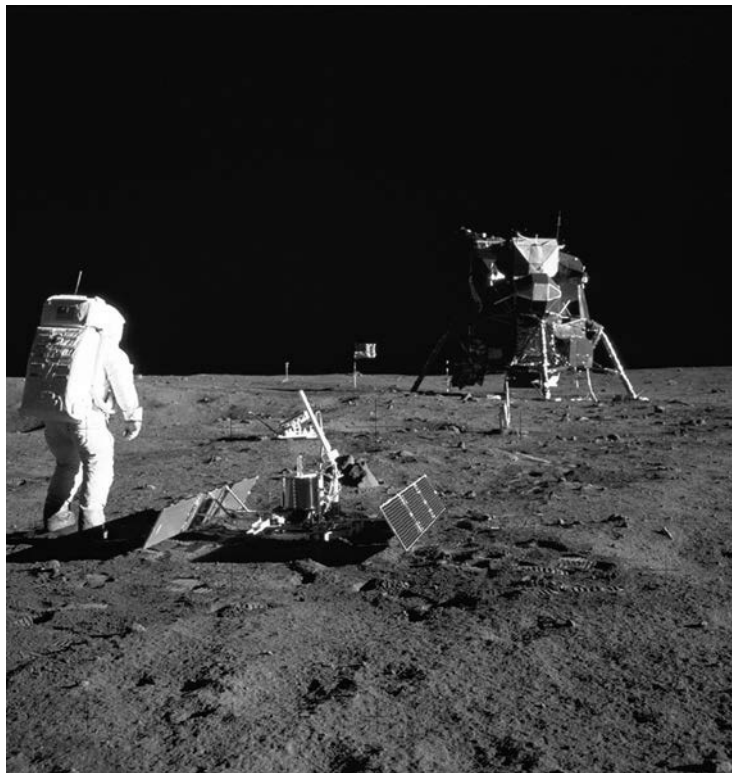
"An Amazing Airy Adventure" and photograph by Michelle Burchett. Copyright April 2016 by Cricket. Reproduced with permission of Open Court Publishing Company via Copyright Clearance Center.

- 1** What is the only way for a pilot to steer a hot air balloon?
- A** By controlling how much weight is in the balloon
 - B** By opening the flap to make the balloon move in circles
 - C** By looking for clear areas without trees or telephone wires
 - D** By moving the balloon up or down to catch different winds
- 2** According to the passage, why do people feel like they are not moving when riding in a hot air balloon?
- A** The balloon floats very high up in the air.
 - B** The balloon moves at the same speed as the wind.
 - C** The balloon becomes part of the morning sky.
 - D** The balloon is lifted up by very hot air.

Apollo 11: The Eagle Has Landed

by Leigh Anderson

- 1 On July 20, 1969, for the first time in history, human beings stepped onto the Moon. They were American astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin. “That’s one small step for man ... one giant leap for mankind,” Armstrong said as he stepped off the ladder. His boots made marks in the dusty grit of the Moon.
- 2 The astronauts had brought a television camera with them. So 242,000 miles away, the world heard Armstrong speak those unforgettable words. People watched in amazement as Armstrong took the first steps on the Moon. Moments later, Buzz Aldrin followed Armstrong out of the lunar module. Meanwhile, astronaut Michael Collins continued orbiting the Moon 69 miles above them. He was in the command ship, *Columbia*, which would take the three astronauts home. But for now Aldrin and Armstrong only had eyes for the surface of the Moon. They had done it! They were the first men on the Moon.



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An astronaut walks on the Moon.

- 3 Apollo 11 had blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, four days earlier. As the rocket sped them into space, each astronaut’s body weight increased to about 1,000 pounds. When the ship finally escaped Earth’s gravity, the men became weightless, floating around if they weren’t strapped in. It was strange to live in zero gravity—things floated away if they weren’t attached to something. The

astronauts had to eat and drink through tubes and straws. They couldn't shower. And just imagine going to the bathroom! The men could brush their teeth, but they couldn't spit out the toothpaste. Their faces swelled because blood moved through their bodies in a different way. The astronauts said the ship stank, but no one cared. Only the Moon mattered.

- 4 The crew of Apollo 11 had a smooth flight into space. The astronauts had spent hundreds of hours training for this mission. They learned how to operate the equipment and what to do if something went wrong. And Neil Armstrong knew how much could go wrong. On an earlier space mission, his ship had spun wildly. He could have passed out, but he managed to fix the problem.
- 5 Four days after leaving Earth, astronauts Armstrong and Aldrin climbed into the small, bug-like lunar module called the *Eagle*. They were ready to go down to the surface of the Moon. But an alarm began to sound. The ship's computer was overloaded with information, setting off the alarm. Then, from mission control back on Earth, the astronauts heard the words they were waiting for: "We're go, *Eagle*. Hang tight." They launched the *Eagle*. But a new problem came up: the *Eagle* passed the landing site. Aldrin told Armstrong the *Eagle* was nearly out of fuel. Taking the controls, Armstrong coaxed¹ the ship towards a clear area, trying to land before the engine drank the last bit of fuel. With only 16 seconds of fuel left, Armstrong called the control center in Houston. "The *Eagle* has landed!"



In the public domain.

Buzz Aldrin inside the lunar module called the *Eagle*

¹**coaxed:** carefully steered

- 6 Armstrong and Aldrin took pictures and collected Moon rocks and dust. They placed scientific equipment on the Moon, and did some experiments. Because there was so little gravity, walking felt more like floating. The astronauts described the Moon as black and gray—beautiful in a desert-like way. When their work was finished, Armstrong and Aldrin fired the special engine that lifted the *Eagle* off of the Moon. It was time to head back to the blue, brown, and green planet called home.
- 7 A few years later Apollo 17 was the last manned mission to the Moon. Astronauts Gene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt landed on the Moon on December 19, 1972. We haven't been back—but wouldn't it be wonderful if we could?

“Apollo 11: The Eagle Has Landed” by Leigh Anderson. Copyright May/June 2009 by AppleSeeds. Reproduced with permission of Cobblestone Publishing Company via Copyright Clearance Center.

3 Part A

How does the author organize the information in paragraphs 1 and 2?

- A** Order of events
- B** Compare and contrast
- C** Problem then solution
- D** Main idea supported by details

Part B

Which reason **best** supports the answer to part A?

- A** The Moon landing is shown to be different from other space trips.
- B** The text explains how humans solved the problem of landing on the Moon.
- C** Moments from the Moon landing are described in sequence.
- D** Evidence is given to prove that people landed on the Moon.

4 According to the passage, what **three** things did the astronauts do on the surface of the Moon?

- A** They took photographs.
- B** They repaired the lunar module.
- C** They collected objects to bring back to Earth.
- D** They conducted some experiments.
- E** They drew pictures of the Moon.

5 Part A

What is the meaning of **operate** as it is used in paragraph 4 of the passage “Apollo 11: The Eagle Has Landed”?

- A** handle
- B** improve
- C** deliver
- D** examine

Part B

Which detail from paragraph 4 **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A** “. . . training for this mission.”
- B** “. . . if something went wrong.”
- C** “. . . his ship had spun wildly.”
- D** “. . . he managed to fix the problem.”

Refer to the passages “An Amazing Airy Adventure” and “Apollo 11: The Eagle Has Landed.” Then answer the questions.

- 6** Select **three** things that piloting a hot air balloon and piloting a spaceship have in common.
- A** Zero gravity makes you feel like you are floating.
 - B** Using the wind is important for steering.
 - C** Training, practice, and experience are important.
 - D** You get to look at Earth in a totally different way.
 - E** Landing in a clear, safe area is difficult.

- 7** The authors of the two passages use specific details to help the readers understand what it feels like to fly in either a hot air balloon or a spaceship. Write a narrative about an experience related to flying. Your story can be about a hot air balloon ride, a trip in space, or something else, real or imagined. Use information from the passages to help develop the ideas in your narrative.



Practice Test Answer and Alignment Document
ELA/Literacy: Grade 4
Paper and Pencil

Section 1		
Items 1–16		
Task: Literary Single		
Passage 1: “Gisela’s Dream Dance”		
Item Number	Answer(s)	Standards Alignment
1.	A	L.4.4
2.	Part A: C Part B: B, E	RL.4.3
3.	Part A: B Part B: D, E	RL.4.1
4.	B	RL.4.3
5.	B	RL.4.3
6.	Part A: D Part B: C	RL.4.3
7.	Part A: D Part B: C, E	RL.4.2
Task: Informational Single		
Passage 2: “Best Job in the World”		
8.	D	RI.4.4
9.	A	RI.4.4
10.	C, D	RI.4.8
11.	C	RI.4.4

12.	Part A: C Part B: B	RI.4.3
13.	A	RI.4.4
14.	C	RI.4.5
15.	Part A: B Part B: D	RI.4.3
16.	A	RI.4.7

Section 2		
Items 1–9		
Task: Literary Performance Task		
Passage 1: “Why is Nita Upside Down?”		
Item Number	Answer(s)	Standards Alignment
1.	Part A: D Part B: D	L.4.4
2.	Part A: B Part B: D	RL.4.1
3.	Part A: A Part B: D	RL.4.2
Passage 2: <i>Why the Platypus is Special</i>		
4.	B	RL.4.4
5.	D	RL.4.1
6.	C	L.4.4
7.	A	RL.4.3
Passages 1 and 2: “Why is Nita Upside Down?” and <i>Why the Platypus is Special</i>		
8.	B	RL.4.9
9.	Constructed Response item: Refer to MCAP Informative/Explanatory Performance Task Rubric Grades 4–5	W.4.2

Section 3		
Items 1–7		
Task: Informational Performance Task		
Passage 1: “An Amazing Airy Adventure”		
Item Number	Answer(s)	Standards Alignment
1.	D	RI.4.3
2.	B	RI.4.1
Passage 2: “Apollo 11: The Eagle Has Landed”		
3.	Part A: A Part B: C	RI.4.5
4.	A, C, D	RI.4.2
5.	Part A: A Part B: D	RI.4.4
Passages 1 and 2: “An Amazing Airy Adventure” and “Apollo 11: The Eagle Has Landed”		
6.	C, D, E	RI.4.9
7.	Constructed Response item: Refer to MCAP Narrative Performance Task Rubric Grades 4–5	W.4.3