

Unit 1

Directions:

Today, you will take Unit 1 of the Grade Band 3-5 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 will ask you to write a response. Write your response in the space provided in your answer document. Be sure to keep your response within the provided space. Only responses written within the provided space will be scored.

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Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

From Sea to Shining Sea

by Lori Mortensen

- 1 You'd think that after hearing Mom and Dad talk about The Trip for a year, I'd be raring to go.¹
- 2 But I don't even want to *think* about it.
- 3 "Aren't you excited?" asks Dad, looking up from his laptop. "This is the trip of a lifetime. I'll bet none of your friends will be driving across the United States this summer."
- 4 *Exactly*, I think. Nobody I know is going to hook up a trailer, pile into an old minivan, and drive from California to New York and back in 58 days.
- 5 Fifty-eight days! That's practically my whole summer! But I know it's useless to protest.
- 6 When Dad was offered a summer off for the first time in his career, he said that he'd always dreamed of driving across the country.
- 7 So now we're going. This is Dad's chance. I pick up my cat, Max, and bury my face in his fur. He paws at my ears playfully.
- 8 *Goodbye, summer vacation. Goodbye, cannonballs² at the lake. Goodbye to hanging out and doing absolutely nothing.*
- 9 *Goodbye, Max.*
- 10 I'm going to miss this ball of fur. I put him down and laugh as he bats a stray button across the floor like a soccer player.
- 11 Gram will have her hands full watching Max. He gets into *everything*.
- 12 The closer The Trip gets, the harder it is to ignore—like an avalanche thundering down a mountain.
- 13 Thick envelopes arrive from places like Indiana, Tennessee, and Arkansas. Dad buys Gram's old pop-up trailer and parks it in our driveway. And night after night, Mom and Dad huddle around the computer, plotting every inch of our 8,000-mile journey.

¹**raring to go:** ready to go

²**cannonballs:** jumping into the water

- 14 Three days after school gets out, The Trip is finally here. Journals, cameras, boxes of macaroni and cheese—*everything* is packed and ready to go.
- 15 Mom’s big binder says that we’re supposed to leave at 9 A.M. But when Dad notices a wet spot under the van, I realize we won’t be going anywhere for a while.
- 16 “The radiator probably needs a new hose,” says Dad. “It shouldn’t take long.”
- 17 Dad puts on his grease-stained coveralls and crawls under the van. Car parts spring up around the van like mushrooms.
- 18 All of my friends from the neighborhood gather in the front yard. “So when are you leaving?” they ask.
- 19 I shrug. “Anytime now,” I say, but inside I’m wondering how we’re ever going to make it across the country when we can’t even get down the driveway.
- 20 Minutes turn into hours. By the time Dad gives Mom the news, it’s late afternoon.
- 21 “I fixed the leak,” says Dad. “Turns out it was the water pump. But now I can’t find one of the fan bolts.”
- 22 Mom organizes a search, but the only things we find are a broken squirt gun and an old penny.
- 23 “The stores are still open,” says Mom.
- 24 “I’ve already called,” says Dad. “None of the stores carry the bolt that fits this old van. Getting a replacement would take days.”
- 25 I gasp. Maybe we’re *not* going on The Trip after all. According to Mom, messing up our agenda—even by one day—would send our schedule toppling like dominoes.
- 26 Reservations would need to be canceled; destinations would be changed. My soul silently rejoices.
- 27 But then I see Dad. He’s leaning over the engine, his hands black with grease. His dream—The Trip of a Lifetime—is vanishing before his eyes.
- 28 Who would have thought that the mighty Trip would crumble before it even began?
- 29 “So much for seeing everything from ‘sea to shining sea,’” Dad says with a weak smile.

- 30 Earlier, I would've celebrated. But not now. I can't bear to see Dad so disappointed. I stare at the lifeless van—the reason that his dream is fading. I wonder where that bolt could be. For a while nobody says anything. Then it hits me. "Max!" I shout. "Find Max!" Without knowing why they're doing it, everyone scrambles to look for the cat.
- 31 I find him at the end of the driveway near the garage. As usual, he's batting something around. *Please, I think, let it be what I hope it is.* I scoop up Max, and sure enough, there's the bolt. I grab it and wave it like a flag.
- 32 Dad's face lights up.
- 33 An hour later, the trailer is hitched, I'm in the van with my family, and the neighbors have gathered to say goodbye *again*. The night sky stretches over our heads like a huge blue blanket.
- 34 "Have a good trip!" everyone yells as we disappear down the road into the night.
- 35 Dad glances back at me in the rearview mirror. "Thanks!" he says.
- 36 I smile. "No problem."
- 37 As our van chugs down the moonlit freeway into uncharted territory, I think this trip might not be so bad after all. *Goodbye, regular old summer vacation. Hello . . . Trip of a Lifetime?*

"From Sea to Shining Sea" by Lori Mortensen. Copyright © 2007 *Highlights for Children, Inc.*, Columbus, Ohio.

1 Which **three** details from the passage show that the narrator is unhappy about her family's vacation?

- Ⓐ "But I don't even want to *think* about it." (paragraph 2)
- Ⓑ "Fifty-eight days! That's practically my whole summer! But I know it's useless to protest." (paragraph 5)
- Ⓒ "*Goodbye, summer vacation. Goodbye, cannonballs at the lake. Goodbye to hanging out and doing absolutely nothing.*" (paragraph 8)
- Ⓓ ". . . inside I'm wondering how we're ever going to make it across the country when we can't even get down the driveway." (paragraph 19)
- Ⓔ "An hour later, the trailer is hitched, I'm in the van with my family, and the neighbors have gathered to say goodbye *again*." (paragraph 33)

2 Read the following sentences from paragraph 30.

"Max!" I shout. "Find Max!" Without knowing why they're doing it, everyone scrambles to look for the cat.

Why does the narrator want to find Max?

- Ⓐ She thinks Max is missing.
- Ⓑ She wants to make sure Max does not get into the van.
- Ⓒ She thinks Max has taken the bolt.
- Ⓓ She wants to keep Max from playing with the car parts.

3 Part A

Which sentence **best** states a theme of the passage?

- Ⓐ Sometimes people need to work hard together to complete a task.
- Ⓑ Waiting too long to begin a plan can cause problems.
- Ⓒ Something that seems unpleasant at first can turn out to be pleasant.
- Ⓓ Being able to fix things yourself is important.

Part B

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

- Ⓐ "And night after night, Mom and Dad huddle around the computer, plotting every inch of our 8,000-mile journey." (paragraph 13)
- Ⓑ "But when Dad notices a wet spot under the van, I realize we won't be going anywhere for a while." (paragraph 15)
- Ⓒ "According to Mom, messing up our agenda—even by one day—would send our schedule toppling like dominoes." (paragraph 25)
- Ⓓ "As our van chugs down the moonlit freeway into uncharted territory, I think this trip might not be so bad after all." (paragraph 37)

For this question, choose the word that has the same sound as the underlined letter.

4 Which word has the same sound as the underlined part of the word **price**?

- Ⓐ hidden
- Ⓑ pilot
- Ⓒ singing
- Ⓓ infant





You have come to the end of Unit 1 of the test. Review your answers from Unit 1 only.



Unit 2

Directions:

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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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Your class is studying different types of games throughout history. You are interested in video games and whether they are good or bad for children. Your teacher helps you find passages that discuss both sides of the subject. Read the passages. You will then answer questions about the passages and write a response stating your opinion about video games.

Why Do Adults Think Video Games Are Bad?

by Joanne Orlando

- 1 Parents and children can have different ideas when it comes to video games.
- 2 Children like video games because they are fun and because they can be challenging. You have to solve problems, work out the best moves for your character, and decide how to use your equipment and supplies in the best possible way. Making all these decisions can be exciting.
- 3 Parents want to make sure that their children are safe and healthy. Because of this, they notice different things about video games.
- 4 Many worry that playing video games might have a bad effect on the way their child behaves. For example, if a video game has lots of fighting in it, they worry that playing it will encourage their child to be violent.
- 5 They are concerned that their child might always choose to play a video game instead of playing outside and getting exercise. Even though you sit still when you read a book, they know that kids can develop good reading skills and learn a lot. Many adults aren't so sure that kids can learn anything educational from video games.
- 6 Sometimes adults think that spending too much time with animated characters is unhealthy for kids. They know it's important for kids to spend time with "real" people and learn good social skills needed for the real world.

What Do Experts Say?

- 7 Experts think playing video games can have good and bad effects on kids. New research shows that there are lots of benefits.
- 8 One good thing is the video games that children play today often encourage them to work in teams, cooperate, and to help each other. This is because games today are often designed for multiple players, not like old-fashioned video games that were mostly designed for one player.

- 9 However, children who are obsessed with¹ video games and play them for a long time can get really competitive and can often try to win at all costs. Experts aren't sure yet, but they have real concerns that this might lead to kids acting like this in real life too.
- 10 One thing you also might like to know is that kids who regularly play video games often get higher grades in math, science, and reading tests. This is because games require players to solve puzzles. You won't get higher marks playing *any* video games, just those that require the player to solve these kinds of puzzles.

Doing More of the Good and Less of the Bad

- 11 It's important for kids to think about what types of games they pick.
- 12 Make sure all of your games aren't fighting games. Instead, choose more games where you need to solve puzzles. These are fun and can also help with your schoolwork. Your parents will be much happier about that!
- 13 Also, think about whether the fighting games you play are affecting how you play with your friends in real life. Only you will really know if they are having a bad effect. If they are, you might want to change the games you play.
- 14 Why not ask your parents to play a problem-solving video game with you? This will help your parents see that video games are not all bad.
- 15 It's also important that kids and adults don't spend too much time using a screen. That means kids not spending all their time on technology, and parents not always checking their phone and screens.
- 16 What we want to aim for is adults and kids who can spend some of their time on their screens, but also enjoying other kinds of interests and spending time with family and friends.

Used with permission.

¹**are obsessed with:** think all the time about

- 1** Which heading is **best** for paragraphs 1 through 6?
- Ⓐ Making Time for Play
 - Ⓑ Which Games to Play
 - Ⓒ What Kids and Parents Believe
 - Ⓓ Helping Kids and Parents
- 2** Which **two** sentences from paragraphs 8 through 10 **best** show that playing video games can be helpful to children?
- Ⓐ "One good thing is the video games that children play today often encourage them to work in teams, cooperate, and to help each other." (paragraph 8)
 - Ⓑ "This is because games today are often designed for multiple players, not like old-fashioned video games that were mostly designed for one player." (paragraph 8)
 - Ⓒ "However, children who are obsessed with video games and play them for a long time can get really competitive and can often try to win at all costs." (paragraph 9)
 - Ⓓ "Experts aren't sure yet, but they have real concerns that this might lead to kids acting like this in real life too." (paragraph 9)
 - Ⓔ "One thing you might also like to know is that kids who regularly play video games often get higher grades in math, science, and reading tests." (paragraph 10)

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Are Video Games Bad for Me?

Reviewed by: Mary L. Gavin, MD

- 1 Lots of kids love video games. In fact, they like them so much that they might hear something like this from Mom or Dad: “Enough! Unplug that thing and find something else to do!”
- 2 It can be good advice, even if you were just about to crash through to the next level. Why? Too much of anything is just too much. It’s true that some studies have shown certain video games can improve hand–eye coordination, problem-solving skills, and the mind’s ability to process information. But too much video-game playing may lead to health problems.
- 3 It’s hard to get enough active play and exercise if you’re always inside playing video games. And without enough exercise, kids can become unhealthy.
- 4 Really overdoing video games also could affect other important stuff, like friendships and how well a kid does in school. And kids who play violent video games might act more aggressively.
- 5 But here’s the good news: Playing video games some of the time can be OK. Just choose quality games and limit screen time—which includes TV, computer, smartphone, tablet, and video game time combined—to no more than two hours a day.
- 6 A good game will be the right one for how old you are. Games are rated like movies, and your mom or dad can help figure out which ones you should use. If you can choose one that gets you up and moving, that’s even better.
- 7 You might challenge your mom, dad—or even your grandma—to swing the bat in a game of baseball or try out some fancy moves in one of the dancing games. Could your grandma be a dancing queen? Time to find out!

Used with permission.

- 3 Which statement **best** shows why playing video games too much can be harmful, according to the passage?
- Ⓐ It can change friendships.
 - Ⓑ It makes children shy around others.
 - Ⓒ It is disappointing to lose.
 - Ⓓ It can cause children to make mistakes.

Refer to the passage "Why Do Adults Think Video Games Are Bad?" and the passage "Are Video Games Bad for Me?" Then answer the questions.

- 4 Which statement **best** describes a main purpose of both passages?
- Ⓐ To show readers that video games can teach children
 - Ⓑ To explain why parents are worried about video games
 - Ⓒ To tell readers about the kind of video games to play
 - Ⓓ To teach readers how video games can be both harmful and helpful



You have come to the end of Unit 2 of the test. Review your answers from Unit 2 only.





MCAAP

Maryland Comprehensive
Assessment Program

Grade Band 3–5
English Language Arts/Literacy
Practice Test

