

PRACTICE TEST

English Language Arts

Grade 5

Student Name

School Name

District Name



Grade 5 English Language Arts

PRACTICE TEST

This practice test contains 8 questions.

Directions

Read each passage and question carefully. Then answer each question as well as you can. You must record all answers in your Practice Test Answer Document.

For most questions, you will mark your answers by filling in the circles in your Practice Test Answer Document. Make sure you darken the circles completely. Do not make any marks outside of the circles. If you need to change an answer, be sure to erase your first answer completely.

Two questions will ask you to write an essay. Write each essay in the space provided in your Practice Test Answer Document. Only essays written within the provided space will be scored.

Today you will read a passage from “The Growin’ of Paul Bunyan.” As you read, pay close attention to the characters’ thoughts. This will help you answer questions and prepare you to write a narrative story.

Read the passage from the story “The Growin’ of Paul Bunyan.” Then answer the questions.

from “The Growin’ of Paul Bunyan”

by William J. Brooke

- 1 *Paul Bunyan finds Johnny Appleseed after Paul chops down all the trees Johnny has planted for six days.*
- 2 Starin’ out at the orange sun, Johnny asks, “Are they all gone?” Paul looks back over his shoulder an’ allows as how they are. Paul waits for Johnny to say somethin’ else, but he just keeps starin’, so Paul says, “It took you six days to plant ‘em an’ it took me only three days to chop ‘em down. Pretty good, huh?”
- 3 Johnny looks up an’ smiles sadly. “It’s always easier to chop somethin’ down than to make it grow.” Then he goes back to starin’.
- 4 Now that rankles Paul. When he beats somebody fair an’ square, he expects that someone to admit it like a man. “What’s so hard about growin’ a tree anyway?” he grumps. “You just stick it in the ground an’ the seed does all the work.”
- 5 Johnny reaches way down in the bottom o’ his bag an’ holds out a seed. “It’s the last one,” he says. “All the rest o’ my dreams is so much kindlin’ wood, so why don’t you take this an’ see if it’s so easy to make it grow.”
- 6 Paul hems an’ haws, but he sees as how he has to make good on his word. So he takes the little bitty seed an’ pushes it down in the ground with the tip o’ one fingernail. He pats the soil around it real nice, like he seen Johnny do. Then he sits down to wait as the sun sets.
- 7 “I’m not as fast as you at this,” Paul says, “but you’ve had more practice. An’ I’m sure my tree will be just as good as any o’ yours.”
- 8 “Not if it dies o’ thirst,” says Johnny’s voice out o’ the dark.
- 9 Paul hasn’t thought about that. So when the moon comes up, he heads back to a stream he passed about two hunnert miles back. But he don’t have nothin’ to carry water in, so he scoops up a double handful an’ runs as fast as he can with the water slippin’ betwixt his fingers. When he gets back, he’s got about two drops left.

- 10 "Guess I'll have to get more water," he says, a mite winded.
- 11 "Don't matter," says Johnny's voice, "if the rabbits get the seed."
- 12 An' there in the moonlight, Paul sees all the little cottontails hoppin' around an' scratchin' at the ground. Not wishin' to hurt any of `em, he picks `em up, one at a time, an' moves `em away, but they keep hoppin' back. So, seein' as how he still needs water, he grabs `em all up an' runs back to the stream, sets the rabbits down, grabs up the water, runs back, flicks two more drops on the spot, pushes away the new batch o' rabbits movin' in, an' tries to catch his breath.
- 13 "Just a little more water an' a few less rabbits an' it'll be fine," Paul says between gasps.
- 14 Out o' the dark comes Johnny's voice. "Don't matter, if the frost gets it."
- 15 Paul feels the cold ground an' he feels the moisture freezin' on his hands. So he gets down on his knees an' he folds his hands around that little spot o' dirt an', gentle as he can, breathes his warm breath onto that tiny little seed. Time passes and the rabbits gather round to enjoy the warmth an' scratch their soft little backs up against those big calloused hands. As the night wears on, Paul falls into a sleep, but his hands never stop cuppin' that little bit o' life.
- 16 Sometime long after moonset, the voice o' Johnny Appleseed comes driftin' soft out o' the dark an' says, "Nothin's enough if you don't care enough."
- 17 Paul wakes up with the sun. He sets up an' stretches an' for a minute he can't remember where he is. Then he looks down an' he gives a whoop. 'Cause he sees a little tiny bit o' green pokin' up through the grains o' dirt. "Hey, Johnny," he yells, "look at this!" But Johnny Appleseed is gone, slipped away in the night. Paul is upset for a minute, then he realizes he don't need to brag to anybody, that that little slip o' green is all the happiness he needs right now.

"The Growin' of Paul Bunyan" by William J Brooke, from *A Telling of the Tales*. Copyright © 1990 by William J. Brooke. Reprinted by permission of the Estate of William J. Brooke.

1 Part A

How do paragraphs 9, 12, and 15 contribute to the overall structure of the story?

- A. They include a series of events that challenge the characters.
- B. They provide details that explain the importance of the setting to the characters.
- C. They identify the source of the conflict between the characters.
- D. They describe the process by which one of the characters learns a lesson.

Part B

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

- A. paragraph 8
- B. paragraph 11
- C. paragraph 14
- D. paragraph 16

2 Part A

At the beginning of the story, how is Johnny's view about his trees different from Paul's?

- A. Johnny views his trees as food for the rabbits while Paul views them as useful in his work.
- B. Johnny views his trees as the result of hard work while Paul views them as objects to win a contest.
- C. Johnny views his trees as needing his protection while Paul views them as needing too much care.
- D. Johnny views his trees as friends that he needs to take care of while Paul views them as something to brag about.

Part B

Choose **two** details, one for Johnny and one for Paul, that support the answer to Part A.

- A. "It took you six days to plant 'em an' it took me only three days to chop 'em down."
- B. "It's always easier to chop somethin' down than to make it grow."
- C. "Johnny reaches way down in the bottom o' his bag an' holds out a seed."
- D. "So he takes the little bitty seed an' pushes it down in the ground with the tip o' one fingernail."
- E. "He pats the soil around it real nice, like he seen Johnny do."
- F. "Don't matter," says Johnny's voice, "if the rabbits get the seed."

This question is a text-based essay question. Write your essay in the space provided in your Practice Test Answer Document. Your essay should:

- Present and develop a narrative that uses details from the passage.
- Include correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

3 You have read a passage from “The Growin’ of Paul Bunyan.” Think about how the story would be different if it were told from Johnny’s point of view. Write the story from the point of view of Johnny.

Read the two poems and then answer the questions that follow.

Read the poem "First Night."

First Night

by Nikki Grimes

Dear Zuri,
I wish that you were here.
I camped out my first night
in my aunt's backyard.
5 Sleeping was hard
with all the sparkling beauty hanging overhead.

Night-lights, Zuri, everywhere!
Clusters of fireflies
dancing 'round my head,
10 keeping me from bed
for hours.

And the sky! I've never seen one
so blue-black, like a thick overcoat
all buttoned up with stars.
15 At midnight, I stretched my arms out
to slip the darkness on,
and opened my eyes again
at dawn.

"First Night" by Nikki Grimes. Copyright © 2001 by Nikki Grimes. First appeared in *Danitra Brown Leaves Town*, published by Amistad. Reprinted by permission of Curtis Brown, Ltd.

Read the poem "Beech Leaves."

Beech¹ Leaves

by James Reeves

In autumn down the beechwood path
The leaves lie thick upon the ground.
It's there I love to kick my way
And hear their crisp and crashing sound.

5 I am a giant, and my steps
Echo and thunder to the sky.
How the small creatures of the woods
Must quake and cower as I pass by!

10 This brave and merry noise I make
In summer also when I stride
Down to the shining, pebbly sea
And kick the frothing waves aside.

¹Beech—a type of tree

"Beech Leaves" by James Reeves, from *Complete Poems for Children* (Faber Finds). Copyright © 1986 by James Reeves. Reprinted by permission of the James Reeves Estate.

- 4 In "First Night," what is the **most likely** reason the speaker says "sleeping was hard"?
- A. The speaker is playing outside.
 - B. The speaker is admiring nature.
 - C. The speaker is talking to someone.
 - D. The speaker is waiting for someone.
- 5 Which word **best** describes the mood in "First Night"?
- A. amazed
 - B. gloomy
 - C. curious
 - D. weary

- 6 In "Beech Leaves," how does the first-person point of view **mostly** affect the reader?
- A. It shows the reader that the speaker is lonely.
 - B. It teaches the reader about the beauty of the area.
 - C. It causes the reader to think about animals' feelings.
 - D. It helps the reader understand the speaker's experience.
- 7 In line 8 of "Beech Leaves," what does the word **cower** mean?
- A. to worry about life
 - B. to shrink away in fear
 - C. to greet with gladness
 - D. to jump up with excitement

This question is a text-based essay question. Write your essay in the space provided in your Practice Test Answer Document. Your essay should:

- Present and develop a central idea.
- Provide evidence/details from the passage(s).
- Include correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

- 8 Compare the speaker's attitude in "First Night" to the speaker's attitude in "Beech Leaves." Be sure to use details from **both** poems to develop your essay.

MASSACHUSETTS COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Grade 5 English Language Arts
Practice Test Answer Document

School Name: _____

District Name: _____

Last Name of Student: _____

First Name of Student: _____

MARKING INSTRUCTIONS

- Use a No. 2 pencil only.
- Do not use ink, ballpoint, or felt-tip pens.
- Make solid marks that fill the circles completely.
- Erase cleanly any marks you wish to change.
- Do not make any stray marks on this form.
- Do not fold, tear, or damage this form.

1. Part A Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ

Part B Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ

2. Part A Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ

Part B Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ Ⓕ

