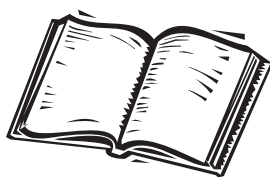




# ***New York State Testing Program***

English  
Language Arts



Book 1

**Sample Test**



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## ***D****irections*

In this part of the test, you are going to do some reading. Then you will answer questions about what you have read.

First you are going to read about two adventurous frogs. Read the story about what happens to these frogs. Then do Numbers 1 through 5.

# THE TWO FROGS

A Japanese Fairy Tale  
Adapted from Andrew Lang



Once upon a time in Japan there lived two frogs. One of them lived in a ditch near the town of Osaka. The other made his home in a clear stream that ran through the town of Kyoto.

The two frogs lived far apart. But oddly enough, they had the same idea at the same time: each wanted to leave home and see the world. The frog who lived in Kyoto wanted to visit Osaka, and the frog who lived in Osaka dreamed of seeing Kyoto.

One fine spring morning they both set out. Halfway between Kyoto and Osaka the frogs arrived at opposite sides of a mountain. It took the frogs a long time and a great many hops to reach the top, but they did so at last. What a surprise for each to see another frog in front of him! They began to chat about their journeys.

“What a pity we are not bigger,” said the Osaka frog, “for then we could see both towns from here, and tell if it is worth our while going on.”

“I have an idea,” said the Kyoto frog. “If we stand up on our hind legs, and hold on to each other, we will be tall and can see the towns we are traveling to.”

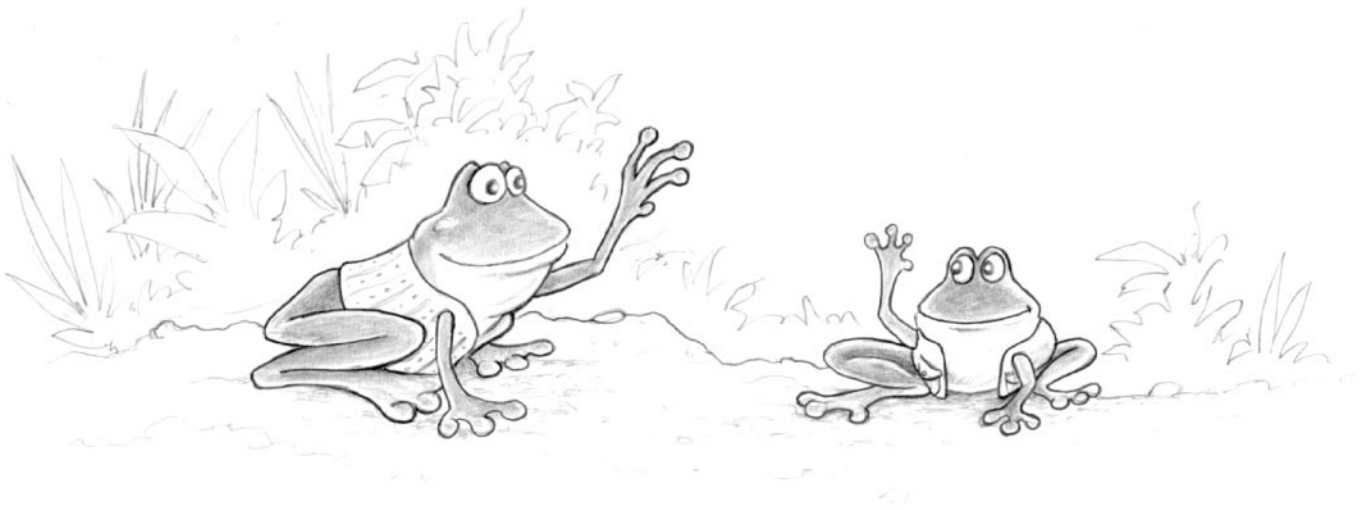
The Osaka frog jumped up and put his front feet on his friend’s shoulders. The frogs stood up on their toes, stretching themselves as high as they could. The Kyoto frog faced towards Osaka, and the Osaka frog faced towards Kyoto. But the foolish frogs forgot that when they stood up their large eyes would be in the backs of their heads. So even though they faced the towns to which they wanted to go, their eyes saw only the towns from which they had come.

“Dear me!” cried the Osaka frog. “Kyoto looks exactly like Osaka. It is certainly not worth such a long journey. I might as well go home!”



“If I had known that Osaka was only a copy of Kyoto I would never have traveled all this way,” exclaimed the Kyoto frog. And as he spoke he took his hands from his friend’s shoulders, and they both fell down on the grass.

The two frogs said good-bye politely, and wished each other well. Then each set off for home again. To the end of their lives they believed that Osaka and Kyoto, which are as different as two towns can be, looked exactly alike.



**1** The Osaka frog left home because he wanted to

- A** see the world
- B** live in a stream
- C** climb a mountain
- D** meet another frog

**2** How did the frogs feel when they got to the top of the mountain?

- F** rushed, because they were late
- G** relaxed, because the climb was easy
- H** surprised, because each saw another frog
- J** hungry, because they forgot to pack lunch

***Go On***

**3** Why did the frogs stand up on their hind legs?

- A** to see which one of them was taller
- B** to tell each other about their travels
- C** to stretch after climbing up the mountain
- D** to look at the towns that they were going to

**4** This story is mainly about how

- F** towns all over the world look alike
- G** the town of Kyoto looks just like Osaka
- H** two frogs misunderstood what they saw
- J** frogs see best when they look backwards

**5** The frogs in this story can best be described as

- A** cheerful but shy
- B** brave but careful
- C** friendly but foolish
- D** strong but impatient

# THE BEAR ESSENTIALS



by Mary Quigley

essentials = basic facts

Daryl Ratajczak works at the Appalachian Bear Center in the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee. In this interview, he talks about how he got interested in bears and how the center helps bears.

**Interviewer:** You know bears. What are they really like?

ferocious = fierce, like  
a wild beast

**Daryl:** Black bears are not the ferocious animals that many people portray them to be. In fact, a wild bear is almost always more afraid of you than you are of it. However, bears are very strong and can hurt you if you get too close to them, so never approach a bear at any time, especially if it is a cub or a mother with cubs!

**Interviewer:** How did you decide to help bears?

**Daryl:** As I was growing up, my dad used to take me camping every summer and fall. We saw lots of animals, from the tiniest mouse to the biggest bear. It was then that I discovered that I truly love animals.

The Appalachian Bear Center rescues bears and helps return them to the wild. But, as Daryl points out, until the bears go home, the center has to feed them.



**Go On**

**Interviewer: How do you find enough food for all those bears?**

**Daryl:** A black bear's favorite food during the fall is nuts. So every year I go to schools throughout eastern Tennessee and ask the schoolchildren to help us. I show them exactly what types of nuts bears like to eat, including acorns, hickory nuts, and chestnuts. Then I have a little contest where the kid who brings in the most nuts wins a small prize. Usually when I return a week later there are about one thousand pounds of nuts waiting for me at the school.

**Interviewer: What can kids do to help bears?**

**Daryl:** One of the greatest threats to bears is people feeding them. When this happens, the bear loses its fear of humans and will try to find food that people throw away. Sometimes they'll find it in campgrounds, but more likely they'll begin to eat out of garbage cans. These "garbage" bears usually don't live as long as wild bears. So if people want to help bears, they can remember never to feed bears, whether it's on purpose or by accident.

**Interviewer: What is it like to return a bear into the wild?**

**Daryl:** It's the greatest thing! At first I thought it would be hard to let go. But when you see the door open and the bear running free, you know you did the right thing.





**6** What made Daryl Ratajczak want to work with bears?

- F** the fun of being outdoors all the time
- G** the fact that bears are not well understood
- H** the camping trips he took with his father
- J** the dream of setting bears free after a rescue

**7** According to the article, what is the main work of the Appalachian Bear Center?

- A** returning bears to the wild
- B** showing people what bears eat
- C** teaching bears not to eat garbage
- D** organizing trips for people to see bears

**8** Daryl Ratajczak says that people should not feed wild bears because

- F** bears don't like the food people eat
- G** the extra food can make bears too fat
- H** it makes bears lose their fear of people
- J** people don't know what bears like to eat

**9** Which of the following best describes how Daryl Ratajczak feels when he frees rescued bears?

- A** happy, because he does not have to feed them
- B** pleased, because he knows he has helped the bears
- C** disappointed, because he will never see them again
- D** worried, because he cannot be sure that they are safe

**10** According to the definition given in the article, which of the following words is the opposite of ferocious?

- F** gentle
- G** strong
- H** hungry
- J** dangerous

**11** This article gives us information about bears by using

- A** pictures and charts
- B** questions and answers
- C** a true story about a rescued bear
- D** a list of examples of what bears do

# Directions

Read this poem about trees. Then do Numbers 12 through 15.



## Trees

by Harry Behn

Trees are the kindest things I know,  
They do no harm, they simply grow

And spread a shade for sleepy cows,  
And gather birds among their boughs.

They give us fruit in leaves above,  
And wood to make our houses of,

And leaves to burn on Hallowe'en,  
And in the Spring new buds of green.

They are the first when day's begun  
To touch the beams of morning sun,

They are the last to hold the light  
When evening changes into night,

And when a moon floats on the sky  
They hum a drowsy lullaby

Of sleepy children long ago...  
Trees are the kindest things I know.



**12**

The main idea of the poem is to

- F** show how trees change as the season changes
- G** show how we should be as kind as trees are
- H** remind us to appreciate the special things about trees
- J** remind us of how we felt about trees when we were small

**13**

The speaker in the poem knows that trees are kind because they

- A** always grow fast
- B** float with the moon
- C** never hurt anything
- D** catch the light in their branches

**14**

Which of these lines from the poem shows something imaginary and not something real about trees?

- F** “And spread a shade for sleepy cows”
- G** “They give us fruit in leaves above”
- H** “And wood to make our houses of”
- J** “They hum a drowsy lullaby”

**15**

This poem is probably trying to

- A** teach the reader to identify different trees
- B** share with the reader a feeling about trees
- C** remind the reader of a lullaby about trees
- D** entertain the reader with funny stories about trees

***Go On***

## **D**irections

Read the following letter to the editor of a school newspaper. Then do Numbers 16 through 18.

Dear Editor:

Garbage is a big problem in our country and it gets bigger all the time. We are running out of places to dump garbage. Instead of trying to find more places to dump garbage, I think we need to find ways to throw less away.

I learned that each year in the United States we throw away

- 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour
- enough writing paper to build a 12-foot high wall from Los Angeles, CA, to New York City, NY

If lined up end to end, a string of garbage trucks hauling the nation's daily garbage would reach halfway to the moon!

Recycling is a great way to reduce the amount of garbage that we send to dumps, and to get more use out of what we throw away. For example:

- Recycling 3 months of the daily newspaper saves 1 tree.
- Recycling 1 aluminum can saves enough energy to run your television for 3 hours.
- Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for 4 hours.

I think we should start a recycling program at our school.

Sincerely yours,

*Avi Sandler*

Grade 7

**16** According to the letter, the main problem with garbage is that

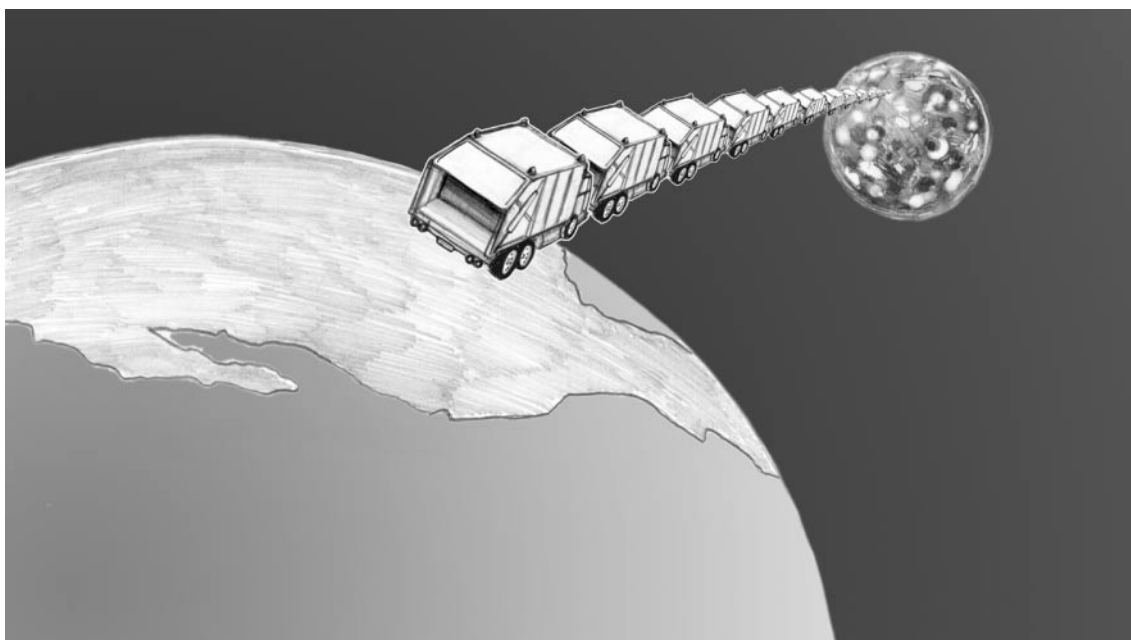
- F** there is a shortage of garbage trucks
- G** nobody wants to help clean up garbage
- H** there are not enough places to put it all
- J** no one knows how to reduce the amount

**17** In the letter, a main argument made for recycling is that it

- A** costs less than throwing trash away
- B** turns garbage into something useful
- C** makes more places available to dump garbage
- D** is something that students and parents can do together

**18** How does the author of the letter persuade readers to recycle?

- F** He states that it will be fun to recycle together.
- G** He uses examples to show how recycling is helpful.
- H** He tries to make the problem seem bigger than it is.
- J** He proves that having too much garbage is dangerous.



***Go On***

# Take a Walk Along the Appalachian Trail

There is a path that starts in Maine and ends in Georgia, 2,167 miles later. This path is called the Appalachian Trail. If you want, you can walk the whole way, although only some people who try to do this actually make it, because it is so far, and they get tired.

The idea for the Trail came from a man named Benton MacKaye. In 1921 he wrote an article about how people needed a nearby place where they could enjoy nature and take a break from work. He thought the Appalachian Mountains would be perfect for this.

In 1923, the first section of the Appalachian Trail was opened in Bear Mountain State Park, New York. Today, thousands of volunteer workers in many states build trails and shelters and keep them clean.

Benton MacKaye described his idea like this: “Imagine that there is a giant standing in the mountains, his head just scraping the clouds. What would he see as he stepped from north to south?” Today, Benton’s giant would see millions of people from all over the world who come each year to hike the Appalachian Trail and enjoy the beauty of nature.

## The Appalachian Trail in New York

**Length:** 88.8 miles

**Features:** Wooded, peaceful. Many lake and valley views.

**Types of hikes:** Easy to medium hikes with some steep climbs.

**Best time to hike:** Late April through early June, September/October.

**What to wear:** Lightweight hiking boots (you will lift your feet at least 2,300 times in one mile!), layers of clothing to protect against the cold, rain gear.

**19** This article is mostly about

- A** how the Appalachian Trail came to exist
- B** when people can visit the Appalachian Trail
- C** who hikes the most on the Appalachian Trail
- D** why people work together on the Appalachian Trail

**20** Why does the article recommend lightweight hiking boots?

- F** Heavy boots can damage the trail.
- G** Heavy boots will make you tired.
- H** Lightweight boots protect against the rain.
- J** Lightweight boots are cooler in the summer.

**21** Why don't most people make it when they try to walk the whole way on the Appalachian Trail?

- A** Parts of the trail are not open to hikers.
- B** Most people want to volunteer to build shelters.
- C** The mountains are too high and are dangerous.
- D** It is too far and people give up before they reach the end.

**22** The information in the box suggests that the best time to hike the Appalachian Trail in New York is

- F** summer, when the days are hot
- G** wintertime, so you can go sledding
- H** anytime, as long as you are prepared
- J** spring or fall, when the temperature is mild

***Go On***

## Directions

Read this story about Mae Jemison and how she became an astronaut. Then do Numbers 23 through 28.

# Mae Jemison: A Star Astronaut

by Steve Emerson

When the space shuttle *Endeavor* blasted off from Kennedy Space Center on September 12, 1992, people cheered. It's always exciting when a space shuttle launches.

But this launch was particularly special because one of the astronauts on board was

to launch = to take off

Dr. Mae C. Jemison, the first African American woman ever to fly in outer space.

Speaking from space on live television, Dr. Jemison said with excitement: "I'm closer to the stars—somewhere I've always dreamed to be."

Dr. Jemison was interested in space exploration from a young age. She did very well in science and math classes at school. After graduating from college she decided to go to medical school. She worked as a doctor in the United States, and also spent several years as a doctor in Africa.

But she was still interested in space, and so she applied to NASA to become an astronaut. The first time she applied, she was turned down, but that didn't stop her. Dr. Jemison applied again. This time she was accepted—along with only 14 others out of over 2,000 people who applied! After a few years at NASA, Dr. Jemison was chosen for the *Endeavor* flight.



NASA

NASA = National Aeronautics and Space Administration



When Dr. Jemison left NASA she started a company that uses technology to make everyday life easier for people everywhere. She is particularly interested in improving health care in Africa.

Dr. Jemison spends part of her time teaching; she also gives many speeches to young people. She wants young people to become interested in science and technology, and to find out for themselves what she found in her life: there is no limit to where your dreams can take you.

technology = the use of science and computers in business
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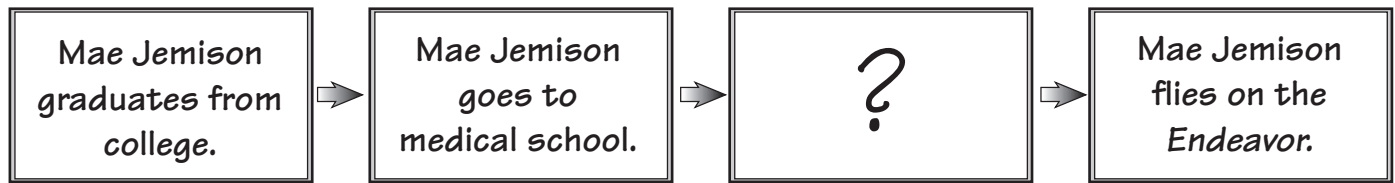
**23** Why was Dr. Jemison excited about her ride on the *Endeavor*?

- A** Her family would be able to see her on television.
- B** She was pleased to be studying medicine in space.
- C** She had only been working for NASA for a short time.
- D** Her dreams of getting closer to the stars had come true.

**24** Which detail from the article shows that it was not easy to become an astronaut?

- F** Dr. Jemison went to medical school after college.
- G** There is no limit to where your dreams can take you.
- H** People cheered when the *Endeavor* blasted off in 1992.
- J** NASA accepted only a few of the 2,000 people who applied.

**25** Which of the following should fill in the box in the timeline?



- A** Mae Jemison starts her own company.
- B** Mae Jemison works as a doctor in Africa.
- C** Mae Jemison gives speeches to young people.
- D** Mae Jemison first becomes interested in outer space.

**26** Why does Dr. Jemison give speeches to young people?

- F** She was asked to do this by NASA.
- G** She wants them to work for her company.
- H** She believes they should follow their dreams.
- J** She hopes they will decide to become doctors.

**27** The author probably wrote this article to

- A** describe to students what astronauts really do
- B** explain how a person can have more than one job
- C** show how a lucky event can change someone's life
- D** tell a true story that encourages people to keep trying

**28** When the author calls Mae Jemison a “Star Astronaut,” he probably means that she

- F** wore stars on her official space suit
- G** flew more often than other astronauts
- H** was a good example of what astronauts can be
- J** has traveled to many different stars and planets

**STOP**

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**Book 1**  
**English Language Arts**  
**Grade 4**

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