

READING—SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Directions

Read the Sample Passage and Sample Questions A and B. For Sample A, fill in the circle that goes with the answer you choose. Be sure to fill in the circle completely and make your mark heavy and dark. If you want to change your answer, completely erase the mark you made before making a new mark. For Sample B, write your answer on the lines provided.

SAMPLE PASSAGE

The sun was shining brightly during recess. Anne, Dustin, Ivan, and Katia were playing soccer. Suddenly the school bell began to ring. They looked at each other in surprise. Recess couldn't be over already! The first kickoff had just taken place.

Ivan said, "There must be something wrong with the school bell. Why is it ringing now?"

"Let's go find out," said Anne.

So they all jogged toward the school doors leading to the office. The doors flew open just before they arrived. The custodian came running out holding something at arm's length in a net. It was wiggling and twisting this way and that. It was trying to escape. All that the students could see was a small ball of fur in the net.

Sample A

Why were the students first surprised?

- Ⓐ The soccer game was canceled.
- Ⓑ The school bell rang too early.
- Ⓒ The custodian had something in a net.
- Ⓓ The teacher gave them an extra recess.



READING PRACTICE TEST

Sample B

Tell what the custodian might have in the net. Use an example from the passage to support your response.



READING PRACTICE TEST

Read the passage about animals that must avoid a flood. Then, answer the questions that follow.

Mole-Rat Keeps His Feet Dry

a Kenyan Folktale
retold by Gail Jarrow and Paul Sherman

On the vast plains near Mount Kenya, it rained day after day for so many days that the animals became worried.

“My fur will never dry out,” said Lion, shaking his soggy mane.

“I don’t like waterfalls dripping down my neck,” said Giraffe. “It’s most uncomfortable.”

The ground trembled as Elephant approached. “A little water is fine with me,” he remarked, flapping his large ears. “But I can hear the river roaring. I fear that the floods will come, and we’ll all drown.”

“We must go to the High Place, where our feet will be dry,” said Lion.

They headed west to find dry ground high on Mount Kenya. They hadn’t gone far when they came upon a tiny mound of dirt. In the center, a pair of pink, hairless legs steadily kicked a fine spray of soil from a hole.

“Oh, Mole-Rat,” called Lion. “Come with us to the High Place, where it’s dry.”

Mole-Rat clicked his four buckteeth together. “Can’t stop to talk,” he replied. “My family and I are working on our tunnels.”

“This is no time for housekeeping,” said Giraffe. “The water’s rising.”

“I’ll let you and your family ride on my back to the High Place,” offered Elephant, lifting his trunk so that

Mole-Rat’s spray of soil would not make him sneeze.

“We’re safe and dry down in our burrow,” said Mole-Rat. “We won’t be needing your services, thank you.”

“But the floods are coming,” pleaded Lion. “Water will gush into your tunnels.”

Mole-Rat stopped kicking the soil. He called into the burrow, “Water in the tunnels!”

“Water in the tunnels!” shouted the next mole-rat in line.

“Water in the tunnels! Water in the tunnels!” The message passed through the burrow until it reached Queen Mole-Rat deep underground.

Soon Mole-Rat poked his head out again. “Queen says it’s time to close up.” And with that, he disappeared down the hole. In seconds, he’d sealed the burrow shut with a plug of dirt.

Giraffe bowed her head sadly. “Poor little Mole-Rat. I do wish he and his family would come to the High Place with us.”

“We must keep moving,” said Elephant. “I hear the river’s roar getting closer.”

For three days and three nights Lion, Giraffe, and Elephant traveled west to the High Place. It was a long and difficult journey. The rain soaked Lion’s mane until it was matted. The winds blew



READING PRACTICE TEST

against Giraffe’s long neck until it was sore. Even mighty Elephant grew tired of walking.

Finally, the three friends reached the High Place. Lion licked his wet paws. Giraffe tipped her neck so that the last drops trickled off. Elephant flapped his ears and said, “I no longer hear the roaring river. We’re safe at last.”

“But what is this?” said Lion, sniffing at a mound of fresh soil.

A pink head popped up from the center of the dirt pile.

“Mole-Rat!” said Lion. “We thought you’d been washed away.”

Mole-Rat’s whiskers twitched. “All dry and cozy down here.”

“How did you arrive before we did?” asked Elephant.

“A shortcut,” replied Mole-Rat.

“You mean you dug your way to the High Place?” asked Giraffe, blinking her long eyelashes in disbelief.

“I told you that the rains would cause us no problems,” said Mole-Rat.

“Though you and your family are small creatures, your strength is great,” said Elephant.

“Is there room for us in your tunnels?” asked Lion. “It sounds as if it would be a more pleasant route home than the one we took here.”

“Sorry. Got to go,” replied Mole-Rat. Kicking a spray of dirt into Lion’s face, he disappeared back into his tunnel.

Never again did the other animals worry about Mole-Rat getting his feet wet.





READING PRACTICE TEST



1. Which sentence states a character's opinion?
 - Ⓐ "Mole-Rat's whiskers twitched."
 - Ⓑ "This is no time for housekeeping."
 - Ⓒ "The ground trembled as Elephant approached."
 - Ⓓ "They headed west to find dry ground high on Mount Kenya."

2. Which animal offers to carry Mole-Rat to the High Place?
 - Ⓐ Lion
 - Ⓑ Giraffe
 - Ⓒ Elephant
 - Ⓓ Queen Mole-Rat





READING PRACTICE TEST



3. What does the suffix “-less” mean in the phrase “hairless legs”?
- Ⓐ full
 - Ⓑ before
 - Ⓒ within
 - Ⓓ without
4. In the passage, why do the animals believe that the plains will flood?
- Ⓐ Lion sees storm clouds coming.
 - Ⓑ Elephant hears the river roaring.
 - Ⓒ Mole-Rat warns about heavy rain.
 - Ⓓ Giraffe sees Mole-Rat digging tunnels.





READING PRACTICE TEST



5. Which sentence **best** tells how Giraffe feels at the beginning of the passage?
- Ⓐ She is bothered by the sun.
 - Ⓑ She is eager to return home.
 - Ⓒ She does not care about Mole-Rat.
 - Ⓓ She is upset about being wet.
6. What is Mole-Rat doing when the animals first arrive?
- Ⓐ cleaning out his tunnels
 - Ⓑ digging in the wrong direction
 - Ⓒ making tunnels to the High Place
 - Ⓓ waiting to be taken to the High Place
7. What is most likely the author's message?
- Ⓐ Small creatures have their own strengths.
 - Ⓑ Small creatures should not trust large creatures.
 - Ⓒ Large creatures must often help small creatures.
 - Ⓓ Large creatures are more clever than small creatures.



Read the activity. Then, answer the questions that follow.

Pinch-Bug Magnets

by Margaret King and Page Carr

For Each Bug You'll Need:

- a pinchy clothespin
- pipe cleaners
- construction paper
- 1-inch round magnet
- black marker
- craft glue

Here's How to Make One:

1. Glue the magnet to the middle of one side of the clothespin.
2. Use the marker to color the bug's "head"—the part of the clothespin that pinches (it's opposite the part that you squeeze).
3. Cut the pipe cleaners into three 6-inch pieces. Glue the middle of the pipe cleaners onto the center of the clothespin below the "head." Let the glue dry, then bend the pipe cleaners to look like six legs.
4. Fold a 3- to 4-inch-square piece of construction paper in half. Draw half of a bug's body on the fold so that, when you cut on the line, you will have a shape with two matching sides. Draw spots or other bug markings on the paper. Look at insect pictures for ideas.
5. Glue the bug's body to the pipe cleaners. When the glue has dried, your pinch-bug can get right to work on your refrigerator.





READING PRACTICE TEST



9. What is the purpose of the numbered section of the activity?
- Ⓐ It tells how to put the magnet together.
 - Ⓑ It lists the materials needed.
 - Ⓒ It lists three uses for the magnet.
 - Ⓓ It tells who could make the magnet.
10. Why is the activity most likely named “Pinch-Bug Magnets”?
- Ⓐ It uses bent pipe cleaners.
 - Ⓑ Glue is used to hold the parts together.
 - Ⓒ It is made from a clothespin.
 - Ⓓ A magnet is used to stick to the refrigerator.





READING PRACTICE TEST



11. Which step comes immediately after folding a square of construction paper in half?
- Ⓐ coloring the bug's head
 - Ⓑ drawing half a bug's body on the fold
 - Ⓒ bending the pipe cleaners to look like legs
 - Ⓓ gluing the bug's body to the pipe cleaners
12. According to the activity, one reason to look at insect pictures is to know
- Ⓐ how to shape the bug's legs.
 - Ⓑ where to place the bug magnet.
 - Ⓒ what bug markings look like.
 - Ⓓ how the bug's head should look.





READING PRACTICE TEST



13. The root word of “construction” means to

- Ⓐ cut.
- Ⓑ glue.
- Ⓒ build.
- Ⓓ color.

14. Read the sentence from the passage.

“Glue the bug’s body to the pipe cleaners.”

Which words are an example of alliteration?

- Ⓐ “pipe cleaners”
- Ⓑ “body to the pipe”
- Ⓒ “glue the bug’s”
- Ⓓ “bug’s body”





READING PRACTICE TEST



15. What is one step that allows the reader to make a bug that is different from other bugs made? Use one example from the activity to support your response.



Read the passage about a mystery. Then, answer the questions that follow.

Mystery in the Old Museum

by Janet Poling

Talitha’s curls bounced as she hopped up the worn concrete steps of the museum, through the open door, and straight to the information desk. “Hello. I’m here to see Big T,” she announced.

“I beg your pardon?” The woman had been searching through her desk. She suddenly sat up, gave a little sneeze, and blinked her puffy eyes. “I’m afraid the museum doesn’t open for a few minutes yet,” she said. “I’m Mrs. Watson.”

“The door was open,” Talitha said, “so I came in to see Big T.”

“Big T?” Mrs. Watson asked.

“*Tyrannosaurus rex*,” Talitha said. “You know, T. rex, forty feet long, big head, little arms, big sharp teeth.” She put her hands out in front of her face and slapped them together like jaws.

“Yes, of course.” Mrs. Watson wiggled her nose and looked under her desk. “It was just here,” she said.

“It was?”

“I meant my handkerchief,” Mrs. Watson said. She sneezed again. “The air-conditioning system isn’t working, so all the windows and doors are open, and the trees are blossoming, the flowers are blooming, the grass is growing, my allergies are attacking, and I can’t find my handkerchief.”

“Here,” said Talitha. “You can use these.” She pulled a small packet of tissues from her jeans. A pink ribbon was left dangling from her pocket.

Mrs. Watson smiled. “Thank you,” she said. She blew her nose.

“You’re welcome,” Talitha said. “May I see Big T now?”

“Certainly,” Mrs. Watson said, pointing. “Dinosaur Hall is that way.”

Talitha skipped around the corner and stopped.

A maintenance worker was on the floor, crawling on his hands and knees. “Lose something?” Talitha asked.

“Yes,” the man replied. “My ‘to do’ list. I dropped it on the floor, and when I turned to pick it up, it was gone.”

Talitha helped him look. She found a small scrap of paper. It said “Fix air cond.”

“Is this it?” she asked.

“It might be,” he said. He looked at the paper and frowned. “That’s part of it.”

A woman in shorts and a safari hat came hurrying around the corner and into the corridor. “Who’s been pulling the straw out of my saber-toothed-tiger exhibit?” she asked before jumping over the maintenance man. She landed lightly on the floor beside Talitha, then rounded another corner and disappeared.

A man with curly red hair came out of an office holding a vase full of daffodils. “Someone has been pulling the petals off these flowers,” he said. “There are yellow petals all over my desk.”

READING PRACTICE TEST

Talitha walked toward the dinosaur room. “There is something strange happening here,” she thought.

Dinosaur Hall was full of fossils. Most impressive of all was the *Tyrannosaurus rex* skeleton, right in the middle of the room.

“Whoo-wee, Big T, you are one mean-looking dinosaur,” Talitha said.

One large eye seemed to wink at her.

“Hmm.” Talitha stared at the skeleton. “What’s going on here?”

She walked slowly around Big T. On the floor near the tail she found two yellow daffodil petals. Three steps from the daffodil petals was a long strand of straw, and lying near that was a scrap of paper that said “Close wind.”

As she read the paper she felt a tug on her pocket.

She turned in time to see her pink ribbon disappearing between Big T’s sharp, curved teeth like a strand of cooked spaghetti.

Talitha put her hands on her hips. “Wait a minute,” she said. “Dinosaur fossils do not eat ribbons.”

She ran upstairs to the second-floor balcony, where she could see eye to eye with Big T. She lay on her stomach and stared straight into the dinosaur’s huge jaws.

Then she started to laugh. She laughed so hard that it echoed through Dinosaur Hall. Mrs. Watson, the maintenance man, the man with the daffodils, and the woman in the safari hat all came running into the room.

Talitha pointed toward Big T’s mouth. A small brown sparrow, hopping up and down inside the jaws, was tucking Talitha’s pink ribbon into a nest made of straw and bits of paper. Bright yellow daffodil petals could be seen in the nest as well, and in the center was a lacy white handkerchief.

“Big T has company,” Talitha said.

Everyone laughed except Mrs. Watson. She sneezed.



READING PRACTICE TEST

16. What is the mystery in the old museum?
- Ⓐ The museum doors have been left unlocked.
 - Ⓑ The air conditioning no longer works.
 - Ⓒ People's property is being disturbed.
 - Ⓓ Daffodils are missing from an office.

17. Read these sentences from the passage.

“ ‘*Tyrannosaurus rex*,’ Talitha said. ‘You know, T. rex, forty feet long, big head, little arms, big sharp teeth.’ ”

These sentences are an example of

- Ⓐ dialogue.
 - Ⓑ simile.
 - Ⓒ rhyme.
 - Ⓓ alliteration.
18. Talitha can **best** be described as
- Ⓐ bashful.
 - Ⓑ nervous.
 - Ⓒ practical.
 - Ⓓ curious.



READING PRACTICE TEST

19. Which is a synonym for the word “dangling” as it is used in the passage?

- Ⓐ hanging
- Ⓑ pulling
- Ⓒ holding
- Ⓓ clutching

20. What is the suffix in the word “impressive?”

- Ⓐ imp
- Ⓑ ive
- Ⓒ ess
- Ⓓ press

21. What is the last thing to happen that helps Talitha solve the mystery?

- Ⓐ A maintenance worker crawls on the floor on his hands and knees.
- Ⓑ A man carries flowers out of an office.
- Ⓒ Talitha sees her pink ribbon disappearing between Big T’s sharp, curved teeth.
- Ⓓ Mrs. Watson sneezes while everyone else laughs.





READING PRACTICE TEST



22. According to the passage, who was Big T's "company"?
- Ⓐ the small brown sparrow
 - Ⓑ the fossils in Dinosaur Hall
 - Ⓒ the man with curly red hair
 - Ⓓ the woman wearing a safari hat
23. Why does Talitha think something is happening at the museum?
- Ⓐ Laughter echoes throughout the museum.
 - Ⓑ There are unusual events going on at the museum.
 - Ⓒ Someone runs through the museum and disappears.
 - Ⓓ There is no one at the information desk.



Read the passage about a fishing experience. Then, answer the questions that follow.

A World-Record Catch

by Shaun Morey

When 8-year-old David White set the hook, he never dreamed it would be a world-record fish. It was the summer of 1970, and he had been fishing with his family from a rubber dinghy off the shores of Bell Island, Alaska.

“It was around 6 o’clock in the evening,” David said. “My two brothers, my one-year-old sister, and my mom and dad and I were fishing from our inflatable dinghy near the shore. The fishing had been slow and we didn’t expect to catch anything. I had my bait down deep, hoping to catch a giant halibut, but the bait was too close to the bottom and the line kept getting snagged.”

David’s dad warned him not to get snagged again. Snags disrupted the fishing, forcing everyone on board to reel in their lines and wait while the snagged line was freed. Only after the hook was pulled free or the line was broken were they able to reset their lines and fish again.

“My dad had already freed up three or four of my snags, but I put my line down deep anyway.”

They were trolling slowly around the cove when David’s rod slumped over again. The line moved slowly and the catch was heavy, just like a snag.

“I started letting some line out, hoping my dad wouldn’t notice. But he saw what I was doing. I told him I thought it wasn’t a snag, but he could see that the line

wasn’t moving very much. It was like I had hooked on to a piece of lead.

“As my dad stopped the boat, my line shot off across the top of the water. I shouted out that I had something. My brothers reeled in their lines and my dad shut off the engine. Everyone watched as the fish raced out a few hundred feet, came to the surface, and jumped three or four times in the air.

“It was pretty far away when it jumped, and we didn’t think it was a very big fish. Plus it was fighting like most of the salmon we were used to catching. We thought it was just another average fish, at first.”

The salmon remained far from the boat. David’s dad waited by the engine in case the fish took too much line. But the fish stayed where it was, and David began to bring in the line. David’s dad calmly talked him through the fight. David strained and reeled and dragged the fish toward the boat. But the fish was determined to fight the line, and each turn of the reel was followed by a lengthy run.

“When the salmon was about halfway to the boat it jumped again, and we saw how big it was. We couldn’t believe it. We got pretty excited then.”

It was the largest fish David had ever hooked. It charged deep. It came to the surface and sulked. It circled slowly and took out line in bursts of speed. Then, halfway through the fight, the



READING PRACTICE TEST

line suddenly slackened. David reeled frantically and tears clouded his eyes.

“I felt the line go dead and thought for sure the fish was gone. But while I was reeling in the line, I saw this thing under the water. It looked like a surfacing submarine. It was a huge fish, and it came up about 10 feet from the boat. Then it started to glide away—and my line followed it. It was my fish and I was still hooked up and I couldn’t believe how big it was!”

David reeled and tugged with new confidence. The fish tired and took less line with each run. It began to circle near the boat, each pass coming closer than the previous one. David’s dad readied the net and waited. He knew the danger was great of losing a fish netted too soon. He also knew David was nearly out of strength.

“My dad put the net in the water and I just sort of guided the fish into it. We learned later that it couldn’t see our net. It had lots of scars on its face and it had lost an eye. That’s probably why we got it on the first try. It definitely had more fight left. Water was flying everywhere.

“My dad quickly slid the netted fish over the side and into the boat. It flopped around until my brother and I secured it with our legs. The pinned fish quieted, and everyone in the boat stared in silence.”

It was the most beautiful fish they had ever seen, and it was big. The family celebrated the catch with hoots and hollers heard far across the bay.

It was 10 o’clock in the evening before they returned to the dock to weigh David’s fish. David’s dad guided the boat up to the dock, and David hauled out his catch. He struggled proudly, lifting

his fish chest high and dragging it to the scale. A small group of onlookers huddled around.

“42-pound-2-ounce salmon,” the weighmaster announced to the crowd. David smiled. It seemed like the largest fish in the world.

Later that night the fish was carted away to a local freezer and flash-frozen. Weeks later it was taken to a taxidermist¹ in David’s hometown of Seattle, Washington. While curing the fish’s skin, the taxidermist saw that the fish was not a salmon as first suspected, but a steelhead. It was the largest one he had ever seen. It was also a potential world record.

The fish was sent to the University of Washington, where the founder of the school’s fisheries department confirmed the taxidermist’s finding. David’s parents then submitted the information to the International Game Fish Association, where the fish qualified for the largest steelhead ever caught with rod and reel.

“I was just a little kid when I caught it, and when they first told me it was a steelhead, I didn’t really care. I just cared about catching such a big fish. But when I was told it was a world record, I think I was the happiest kid around.”

It’s been more than 30 years since David landed his record steelhead. Thousands of anglers have tried to catch a bigger steelhead, but none have succeeded. The catch is also unofficially the longest-standing world-record fish caught by any kid. And David, now an adult, still can’t believe it.

¹ a person who prepares animal skins as trophies

READING PRACTICE TEST

24. How does David most likely feel when he hooks the fish?

- Ⓐ excited
- Ⓑ upset
- Ⓒ afraid
- Ⓓ cheerful

25. Read this sentence from the passage.

“The family celebrated the catch with hoots and hollers heard far across the bay.”

This sentence contains an example of which literary device?

- Ⓐ rhyme
- Ⓑ setting
- Ⓒ alliteration
- Ⓓ simile

26. Why is David’s fish considered a world record?

- Ⓐ It took the longest amount of time to catch.
- Ⓑ It is the largest steelhead ever caught with a rod and reel.
- Ⓒ It was the strongest fish ever caught in Alaska.
- Ⓓ It had more injuries than any other steelhead caught.





READING PRACTICE TEST



27. Who noticed that the fish was **not** a salmon?

- Ⓐ David
- Ⓑ the taxidermist
- Ⓒ David's father
- Ⓓ the weighmaster

28. What is one theme of the passage?

- Ⓐ Seeing is believing.
- Ⓑ Never forget your dreams.
- Ⓒ If you do not succeed, it is not meant to be.
- Ⓓ Sometimes good things take you by surprise.

END SESSION



**DO NOT
MARK
ON THIS
PAGE**

**DO NOT
MARK
ON THIS
PAGE**



Grade 4
Reading Practice Test Book
Form 4P01R

Copyright © 2007 by Alaska Department of Education & Early Development. The materials contained in this publication may be duplicated by Alaska educators for local classroom use. This permission does not extend to the duplication of materials for commercial use.