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Grade 3English Language Arts/Literacy Practice Test

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Directions:

Today, you will be taking the Grade 3 English Language Arts/Literacy Practice Test.

Read each passage and all questions carefully. Some questions will ask you to choose one correct answer, while others will ask you to choose more than one correct answer. You may look back at the passage or passages as often as necessary.

Mark your answers by filling in the circles in your test booklet. Do not make any stray marks in the test booklet. If you need to change an answer, be sure to erase your first answer completely.

To answer a question that asks you to pick one answer, fill in the circles as follows:

- $A \bigcirc C \bigcirc$
- To answer a question that asks you to pick more than one answer, fill in the circles as follows:

Some questions will ask you to provide a written response to the passages you have read. You may plan your response using scratch paper. Be sure to write your response in the box provided in your test booklet. Crossed-out work, writing that falls outside of the box, or work on scratch paper will not be scored.

If you do not know the answer to a question, you may skip it and go on. If you finish the test early, you may review your answers and any questions you may have skipped.

Today, you will read two stories titled "Johnny Chuck Finds the Best Thing in the World" and "Me First." As you read, think about the actions of the characters and the events of the stories. Answer the questions to help you write an essay.

Read the story titled "Johnny Chuck Finds the Best Thing in the World." Then answer questions 1 through 3.

Johnny Chuck Finds the Best Thing in the World

by Thornton Burgess

- 1 Old Mother West Wind had stopped to talk with the Slender Fir Tree.
- 2 "I've just come across the Green Meadows," said Old Mother West Wind, "and there I saw the Best Thing in the World."
- 3 Striped Chipmunk was sitting under the Slender Fir Tree and he couldn't help hearing what Old Mother West Wind said. "The Best Thing in the World—now what can that be?" thought Striped Chipmunk. "Why, it must be heaps and heaps of nuts and acorns! I'll go and find it."
- 4 So Striped Chipmunk started down the Lone Little Path through the wood as fast as he could run. Pretty soon he met Peter Rabbit.
- 5 "Where are you going in such a hurry, Striped Chipmunk?" asked Peter Rabbit.
- 6 "Down in the Green Meadows to find the Best Thing in the World," replied Striped Chipmunk, and ran faster.
- 7 "The Best Thing in the World," said Peter Rabbit, "why, that must be a great pile of carrots and cabbage! I think I'll go and find it."
- 8 So Peter Rabbit started down the Lone Little Path through the wood as fast as he could go after Striped Chipmunk.
- 9 As they passed the great hollow tree Bobby Racoon put his head out. "Where are you going in such a hurry?" asked Bobby Racoon.
- 10 "Down in the Green Meadows to find the Best Thing in the World!" shouted Striped Chipmunk and Peter Rabbit, and both began to run faster.

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GO ON ▶

- 11 "The Best Thing in the World," said Bobby Racoon to himself, "why, that must be a whole field of sweet milky corn! I think I'll go and find it."
- 12 So Bobby Racoon climbed down out of the great hollow tree and started down the Lone Little Path through the wood as fast as he could go after Striped Chipmunk and Peter Rabbit, for there is nothing that Bobby Racoon likes to eat so well as sweet milky corn.
- 13 At the edge of the wood they met Jimmy Skunk.
- 14 "Where are you going in such a hurry?" asked Jimmy Skunk.
- 15 "Down in the Green Meadows to find the Best Thing in the World!" shouted Striped Chipmunk and Peter Rabbit and Bobby Racoon. Then they all tried to run faster.
- 16 "The Best Thing in the World," said Jimmy Skunk. "Why, that must be packs and packs of beetles!" And for once in his life Jimmy Skunk began to hurry down the Lone Little Path after Striped Chipmunk and Peter Rabbit and Bobby Racoon.
- 17 They were all running so fast that they didn't see Reddy Fox until he jumped out of the long grass and asked:
- 18 "Where are you going in such a hurry?"
 - 19 "To find the Best Thing in the World!" shouted Striped Chipmunk and Peter Rabbit and Bobby Racoon and Jimmy Skunk, and each did his best to run faster.
 - 20 "The Best Thing in the World," said Reddy Fox to himself. "Why, that must be a whole pen full of tender young chickens, and I must have them."
 - 21 So away went Reddy Fox as fast as he could run down the Lone Little Path after Striped Chipmunk, Peter Rabbit, Bobby Racoon and Jimmy Skunk.
 - 22 By and by they all came to the house of Johnny Chuck.
 - 23 "Where are you going in such a hurry?" asked Johnny Chuck.
 - 24 "To find the Best Thing in the World," shouted Striped Chipmunk and Peter Rabbit and Bobby Racoon and Jimmy Skunk and Reddy Fox.
 - 25 "The Best Thing in the World," said Johnny Chuck. "Why I don't know of anything better than my own little home and the warm sunshine and the beautiful blue sky."

- 26 So Johnny Chuck stayed at home and played all day among the flowers with the Merry Little Breezes of Old Mother West Wind and was as happy as could be.
- 27 But all day long Striped Chipmunk and Peter Rabbit and Bobby Racoon and Jimmy Skunk and Reddy Fox ran this way and ran that way over the Green Meadows trying to find the Best Thing in the World. The sun was very, very warm and they ran so far and they ran so fast that they were very, very hot and tired, and still they hadn't found the Best Thing in the World.
- 28 When the long day was over they started up the Lone Little Path past Johnny Chuck's house to their own homes. They didn't hurry now for they were so very, very tired! And they were cross—oh so cross! Striped Chipmunk hadn't found a single nut. Peter Rabbit hadn't found so much as the leaf of a cabbage. Bobby Racoon hadn't found the tiniest bit of sweet milky corn. Jimmy Skunk hadn't seen a single beetle. Reddy Fox hadn't heard so much as the peep of a chicken. And all were as hungry as hungry could be.
- 29 Half way up the Lone Little Path they met Old Mother West Wind going to her home behind the hill. "Did you find the Best Thing in the World?" asked Old Mother West Wind.
- 30 "No!" shouted Striped Chipmunk and Peter Rabbit and Bobby Racoon and Jimmy Skunk and Reddy Fox all together.
- 31 "Johnny Chuck has it," said Old Mother West Wind. "It is being happy with the things you have and not wanting things which some one else has. And it is called Con-tent-ment."

"Johnny Chuck Finds the Best Thing in the World" from Old Mother West Wind by Thornton Burgess, 1910.

6

GO ON ►

What does **cross** mean as it is used in paragraph 28 of "Johnny Chuck Finds the Best Thing in the World"?

- A excited
- B lost
- © upset
- scared

Part B

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

- ". . . hadn't found the Best Thing in the World."
- © "... they started up the Lone Little Path"
- They didn't hurry now"

How do the details in the story show the idea of "Con-tent-ment"?

- A through describing what Johnny Chuck does at his home
- through the question that Johnny Chuck asks in the story
- © through the explanation of the animals' hunger after their search
- through the listing of all the animals that join the group

Part B

Which detail from "Johnny Chuck Finds the Best Thing in the World" supports the answer to Part A?

- "By and by they all came to the house of Johnny Chuck."
- ® ". . . played all day among the flowers with the Merry Little Breezes of Old Mother West Wind . . ."
- © ". . . Striped Chipmunk and Peter Rabbit and Bobby Racoon and Jimmy Skunk and Reddy Fox ran this way and ran that way over the Green Meadows trying to find the Best Thing in the World."
- "Peter Rabbit hadn't found so much as the leaf of a cabbage."

What is the moral of "Johnny Chuck Finds the Best Thing in the World"?

- Sometimes you can find happiness by following others.
- ® You will usually be happy when you are by yourself.
- © Sometimes you must search for happiness.
- You can be happy with what you have.

Part B

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

- Where are you going in such a hurry?' asked Johnny Chuck."
- Why I don't know of anything better than my own little home and the warm sunshine and the beautiful blue sky."
- © "The sun was very, very warm and they ran so far and they ran so fast . . ."
- When the long day was over they started up the Lone Little Path past Johnny Chuck's house to their own homes."

Read the story titled "Me First" by Helen Lester. Then answer questions 4 through 6.

Me First

by Helen Lester



- 1 Pinkerton was pink, plump, and pushy. He would do anything to be first, even if it meant bouncing off bellies, stepping on snouts¹, or tying tails.
- 2 "Me first!" he cried when he had been last in line and finished first down the slide.
- 3 "Me first!" he cried at story time, settling on his round bottom with his big head right smack in front of the book.
- 4 And every day in the school trough-a-teria "Me first!" rang out and there was Pinkerton.



¹snouts—noses

GO ON ►

- 5 One Saturday, Pinkerton's Pig Scout troop went on a day trip to the beach. Pinkerton was first on the bus and sat in the front row.
- 6 He was first off the bus, first in the water, first out of the water, and first into the picnic basket.
- 7 After lunch the Pig Scouts decided to go for a hike. Off they went, with Pinkerton leading the line, of course. As the Pig Scouts marched across the sand, they heard a faint voice far in the distance.
- 8 The voice called out, "Who would care for a sandwich?" Pinkerton pricked up his pointy ears. Care for a sandwich? Oh yes, me first! he thought, and he began to trot ahead of the others.
- 9 Soon he heard the voice again, closer and louder this time. "WHO WOULD CARE FOR A SANDWICH?"
- 10 "ME FIRST!" cried Pinkerton, kicking up sand and leaving the other Pig Scouts far behind. His imagination almost burst. Peanut butter! Jelly! Two tomatoes! Seven pickles! A slab of cheese! A blob of mayo! A smear of mustard. All for ME! FIRST!
- 11 "WHO WOULD CARE FOR A SANDWICH?"
- 12 Now at a full gallop Pinkerton shrieked, "ME FIRST!" Over a sandy hill he flew and . . . Kerplop. He landed face to face with a small creature with a bump on her nose and fur on her toes.
 - 13 "Am I glad to see you!" she cackled. "I sure could hear you coming: 'Me first. ME FIRST! ME FIRST!' I guess you *really* would care for a sandwich."
 - 14 "Oh, yes indeed," replied Pinkerton. He jumped up and down so fast his teeth jiggled.
 - 15 "Good!" cackled the small creature.
 - 16 Pinkerton waited. One second. Two seconds. Three seconds. "Well?" he asked.
 - 17 "Well what?" replied the small creature.
 - 18 "The sandwich," begged Pinkerton. "Where's . . . the sandwich?"
 - 19 The small creature curtsied². "You're looking at her." She went on, "I am a Sandwitch, and I live in the sand, and you said you would care for a Sandwitch, so here I am. Care for me."

²curtsied—bent her knees and bowed

- 20 All Pinkerton could say was "But I . . ."
- 21 Taking no notice, the Sandwitch continued, "You said, 'Me first.' You wanted to be the first to care for me. Well, congratulations! Now just come along to my sand castle." Grabbing Pinkerton firmly by the sleeve, she led him around a few bends.
- 22 Before he could say "But I . . ." again, the gate to her castle closed.
- 23 "All right, my pink, plump, pushy one, now you care for me. You may have the honor of being the FIRST to powder my nose and comb my toes."
- 24 Seeing no way out, Pinkerton powdered her nose and combed her toes.



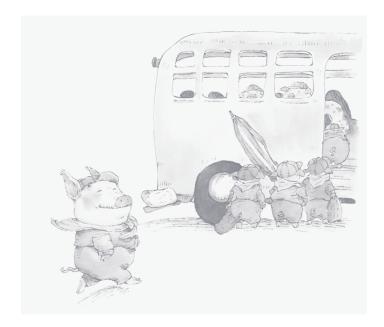
- 25 "Next," she crowed, "you may be the FIRST to put my supper in a bucket and feed me with a shovel." Pinkerton looked around. He had no choice. He put her supper in a bucket and fed her with a shovel.
- 26 Rubbing her tummy, the Sandwitch spoke on: "Finally, after you've had the privilege³ of being the FIRST to wash my dishes and sweep my castle and do my laundry and curl my hair and tuck me in, you may be the FIRST to tell me a bedtime story."
- 27 Pinkerton washed the dishes, swept the castle, did the laundry, curled the Sandwitch's hair and tucked her in.
- 28 The Sandwitch stretched and yawned loudly. "Now the story. I need my story." Pinkerton was so tired he could barely speak.
- 29 "I don't know any stories," he whimpered.

³privilege—special chance

GO ON ▶

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- 30 "Then how about making up something—oh, how about something concerning a pushy pig who always wanted to be first?"
- 31 Pinkerton sighed and began, "Once upon a time there lived a pig who always wanted to be first, until one day he met a wise Sandwitch—"
- 32 "Wise and beautiful," cut in the Sandwitch.
- 33 "—a wise and beautiful Sandwitch who showed him that FIRST was not always BEST."
- 34 "Aha!" cackled the Sandwitch. She gave Pinkerton a slow, serious, and meaningful wink. "Have you learned something?"
- 35 "Oh yes, yes," said Pinkerton. "I promise I have."
- 36 "In that case, thanks for the care. Goodbye and good luck." She opened the gate and Pinkerton sped off so fast he didn't even notice the delicious sandwich she held out to him.



37 He was just in time to catch the bus. On he scooted—pink, plump, and glad to be last.

Text and illustrations from Me First by Helen Lester, illustrated by Lynn Munsinger. Text copyright © 1992 by Helen Lester. Illustration copyright © 1992 by Lynn Munsinger. Reprinted by permission of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

What does the phrase **his teeth jiggled** in paragraph 14 show about Pinkerton?

- A Pinkerton feels pain.
- B Pinkerton feels tired.
- © Pinkerton feels excited.
- Pinkerton feels nervous.

Part B

Which detail from "Me First" shows another example of the answer to Part A?

- Soon he heard the voice again, closer and louder this time."
- ® "His imagination almost burst."
- © "He landed face to face with a small creature. . . ."
- "Pinkerton waited. One second. Two seconds."

5.



Part A

Which statement **best** describes what the picture adds to the story?

- The picture shows that Pinkerton is hungry.
- ® The picture shows that the other Scouts are upset at Pinkerton.
- © The picture shows that the Scouts take different items to the beach.
- The picture shows that Pinkerton has learned how to behave.

Part B

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

- "He would do anything to be first, even if it meant bouncing off bellies, stepping on snouts, or tying tails."
- ® "One Saturday, Pinkerton's Pig Scout troop went on a day trip to the beach."
- © "After lunch the Pig Scouts decided to go for a hike."
- "He was just in time to catch the bus."

How do Pinkerton's actions lead him to be tricked by the Sandwitch?

- Pinkerton thinks only about himself, so he keeps the Scouts from meeting the Sandwitch.
- Pinkerton cares more about eating than helping his fellow Scouts, so he keeps the Sandwitch a secret.
- © Pinkerton wants to be better than the other Scouts, so he volunteers to help the Sandwitch.
- Pinkerton wants to arrive before everyone, so he runs ahead of the Scouts toward the sound of the Sandwitch's voice.

Part B

Which detail from "Me First" supports the answer to Part A?

- "Pinkerton was first on the bus and sat in the front row."
- "As the Pig Scouts marched across the sand, they heard a faint voice far in the distance."
- © "ME FIRST!' cried Pinkerton, kicking up sand and leaving the other Pig Scouts far behind."
- "A slab of cheese! A blob of mayo! A smear of mustard. All for ME! FIRST!"

SERIAL #

Refer to the stories "Johnny Chuck Finds the Best Thing in the World" and "Me First." Then answer question 7.

Old Mother West Wind and the Sandwitch both try to teach important lessons to characters in the stories.
Write an essay that explains how Old Mother West Wind's and the Sandwitch's words and actions are important to the plots of the storic Use what you learned about the characters to support your essay.

17

GO ON ▶

Today you will read the story "A Once-in-a-Lifetime Experience." Pay close attention to the actions of the characters and the events in the story. Answer the questions to help you prepare to write a narrative story.

Read the story "A Once-in-a-Lifetime Experience." Then answer questions 8 through 13.

A Once-in-a-Lifetime Experience

by Sandra Beswetherick

- 1 It was my idea to invite Derrick, the new kid in our neighborhood, on our annual father-and-son weekend trip. Derrick had never been camping or fishing.
- 2 "Great idea!" Dad said. "It'll be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for him, one he'll never forget."
- 3 Dad and I didn't realize how true that would turn out to be.
- 4 The car blew a tire on the way to our campsite. Not an impressive start.
- 5 "A minor setback, that's all," Dad said as Derrick and I tumbled out of the car to help.
- 6 It was dark by the time we reached the campsite, got the boat into the water, and set up the tent. There was a stiff, icy breeze blowing off the lake.
- 7 Derrick shivered as he examined the sky. "That isn't snow, is it?"
- 8 "Snow?" I said.
- 9 "It never snows in March!" Dad protested.
- 10 But those big flakes fell fast and heavy, blanketing the ground.

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

- 11 I burst out laughing. Derrick grinned. But Dad was horrified. He hustled us into the tent so we wouldn't catch pneumonia¹ or something. But first he made sure we didn't track any snow into the tent with us.
- 12 "We need to keep the floor dry," Dad insisted. "There's nothing worse than sleeping in wet sleeping bags."

¹catch pneumonia—get sick

GO ON ▶

- 13 He passed out sandwiches after we settled in. "Minor setback," he assured Derrick. "The snow should be gone tomorrow." Dad reached for the large bottle of cola to pour us each a drink.
- 14 Maybe the cola was warm, or maybe it had been jostled too much, because when Dad opened it, that bottle erupted like Mount Vesuvius. Cola overflowed like lava. Dad dropped the bottle. It rolled across the tent floor spewing its contents, and we ended up perched on our sleeping bags like castaways adrift² in a cola sea.
- 15 Derrick clapped both hands over his mouth. His face turned red, and his cheeks ballooned out as if *he* were about to explode, too. From behind his hands came the snuffling and snorting of trapped laughter.
- 16 I tried to keep a straight face, out of respect for Dad—not just because he'd insisted that we keep the tent floor dry, but because he'd wanted this trip to be perfect.
- 17 "Minor setback," Dad muttered as we soaked up cola with our towels.
- 18 The next morning dawned bright and beautiful, much to Dad's relief. Derrick stood at the water's edge, admiring the clear still lake, the tree-lined shore, and the cloudless sky.
- 19 "Wait until you catch your first fish, Derrick," Dad said as he got the boat ready. "That's an experience you won't forget." Dad turned to me. "Right, Steve?"
- 20 "Right, Dad," I answered.

- 21 "And wait until you taste some fried, freshly caught fish for breakfast," Dad said. "Right, Steve?"
- 22 "Right, Dad," I said, although I thought Dad was trying a little too hard.
- 23 But Derrick didn't catch his first fish. In fact, none of us felt even a nibble on our lines. This wasn't a minor setback for Dad. This was a major disaster.
- 24 The silence grew. The still air settled hot and heavy.
- 25 I leaned over the side of the boat. "Fishy," I sang into the depths of the lake. "Come on, I know you're down there." It sure beat sitting around in silence. And we weren't catching any fish anyway.

²adrift—floating

- 26 Derrick joined in. "Fishy," he crooned, looking down into the water. "Here, fish, fish." When he turned back to me, his eyes were bulged, his mouth was puckered, and he was gulping down air the way a fish gulps water. The perfect fish-face!
- 27 I let out a whoop and made a fish-face of my own, my open hands on either side of my head for gills. "Fishy!"
- 28 Derrick and I turned our fish-faces toward Dad. There sat Dad with the goggled eyes and downturned frown of his favorite fish, the largemouth bass. "Fishy, fishy, bite my hook," he chanted in a throaty voice, "so I can take you home to cook."
- 29 Derrick hooted with laughter and fell into the bottom of the boat. Dad's bass frown upturned into a grin.
- 30 Lucky that Dad's mood improved when it did, because it was about then that the boat started sinking.
- 31 "Mr. Adams," Derrick asked, "should there be this much water in your boat?"



- 32 "Holy mackerel!" Dad yelled. He reached for the motor. "You guys, bail³!"
- 33 We barely reached shore, the boat sloshing with water.
- 34 That night, as we sat around the campfire toasting marshmallows, Derrick admitted he'd been worried about coming on the trip. "But it's been incredible," he said. "I'll never forget it. Thanks for inviting me."
- 35 "You're welcome," said Dad. "We're glad you came."

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

³bail—scoop water out of the boat

GO ON ▶

English Language Arts/Literacy

- 36 "I wonder what will happen next?" Derrick asked, putting another marshmallow on his stick.
- 37 "Yeah," I said. "I wonder."
- 38 As for Dad, he smiled a brave smile.



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Read paragraph 14 from the story.

Maybe the cola was warm, or maybe it had been jostled too much, because when Dad opened it, that bottle erupted like Mount Vesuvius. Cola overflowed like lava. Dad dropped the bottle. It rolled across the tent floor spewing its contents, and we ended up perched on our sleeping bags like castaways adrift in a cola sea.

What does **that bottle erupted like Mount Vesuvius** mean as used in the paragraph?

- The cola bottle was open and floating in the water.
- The cola was bubbling and spilling out.
- © The cola bottle was moving around.
- The cola was hot.

Part B

Which detail from the paragraph supports the answer to Part A?

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- ® "...jostled too much ..."
- © "... overflowed like lava."
- "... perched on our sleeping bags ..."

Read the sentence from paragraph 15 of the story.

Derrick clapped both hands over his mouth.

Why does Derrick cover his mouth with his hands?

- A He does not want to show his feelings.
- B He is making an angry face.
- He is covering a sneeze.
- He does not feel well.

Part B

Which detail from paragraph 15 **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- ". . . his cheeks ballooned out"
- © "From behind his hands . . ."
- ". . . snorting of trapped laughter."

Derrick and the narrator start to make fish faces. How does this affect what happens next in the story?

- It helps Dad feel better, and he joins in.
- It upsets Dad, and the boat almost sinks.
- © It surprises Dad, and he lets go of the motor.
- It leads Dad to a solution, and they catch fish.

Part B

Choose **two** details from paragraphs 28 through 33 that support the answer to Part A.

- ". . . his favorite fish, the largemouth bass."
- ® "'Fishy, fishy, bite my hook,' he chanted. . . ."
- "Dad's bass frown upturned into a grin."
- ". . . the boat started sinking."
- © ""... should there be this much water in your boat?""
- [®] "We barely reached shore. . . ."

Derrick asks if there should be water in the boat. How does Dad respond to this event?

- A Dad starts to feel better.
- ® Dad talks about how much fun it is to catch fish.
- © Dad is sad that the trip was not a success.
- Dad gets everyone to work together to make it safely back to shore.

Part B

Which detail from the story supports the answer to Part A?

- A "'And wait until you taste some fried, freshly caught fish"

 A ""

 A "

 A ""

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 A "
- B "'You guys, bail!""
- © ". . . the boat sloshing with water."
- ""Thanks for inviting me."

What is a central message of the story?

- People may be surprised by the weather.
- People can be happy even when things go wrong.
- © Sometimes it is easy to prepare for new things.
- Something that is here today may be gone soon.

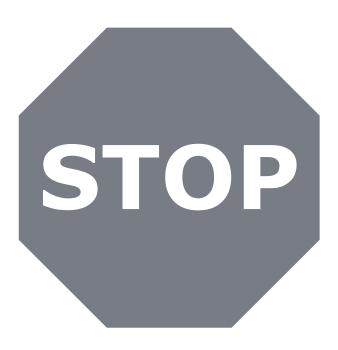
Part B

Which sentence from the story supports the answer to Part A?

- There was a stiff, icy breeze blowing off the lake."
- ® "'The snow should be gone tomorrow.""
- © "'We're glad you came.""
- "As for Dad, he smiled a brave smile."

13.	This story tells about Derrick's first camping trip.
	Write Derrick's journal entry about this camping trip. Include information about how the characters responded to the events in the story as you write the journal entry.

- 1			
- 1	 	 	
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You have come to the end of the test.

- Review your answers.
- Then, close your test booklet and raise your hand to turn in your test materials.





Grade 3 English Language Arts/Literacy Test Booklet

Practice Test

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