

ELD Reading Test Grades 3-5 Advanced

Directions: Read each of the passages. Then, read each of the questions that follow and decide on the BEST answer. There are a lot of different kinds of questions, so read each question carefully before marking your answer.

How the Chipmunk got its Stripes



Long ago, the Earth was covered in darkness. None of the creatures living there knew what daylight looked like.

One day, all of the animals of the forest gathered together in a clearing. They wondered if it would be better to remain in darkness, or if it would be better to also have light. Deer, Chipmunk, Raccoon, Wolf, Bear, and many other creatures climbed to the top of the highest mountain. The mountain stood so tall that there were no trees on its top, and it was covered only with rocks. Millions of stars blinked in the dark sky overhead. The biggest and most powerful animal in the forest was the bear, and he was the first to reach the mountaintop. Bear stood on the highest peak, looked out over the forest below, and argued for remaining in darkness. He said that the creatures of the forest would be able to sleep better in darkness because there would be no light to keep them awake. Most of the other animals were afraid, and they agreed with Bear. Raccoon said that he did not mind the darkness because he was so smart that he could find plenty of food, even in the dark. Wolf was easy to please, too. She didn't mind the darkness because she could howl in darkness or in light.

But one animal did stand up to Bear. Chipmunk, the smallest of the animals, argued that it would be better to have both light and dark. Chipmunk was very clever. As Bear continued to argue for darkness, she made many good arguments for light.

Slowly, the night passed. Bear grew tired of talking, but Chipmunk chattered on and on, as if she had all of the energy in the world. As the other animals dropped off to sleep, one by one, Chipmunk kept arguing. Finally, the first sunrise ever seen by the animals appeared over the top of the mountain. They woke up and were amazed by what they saw.

Chipmunk began to dance from rock to rock. Bear became angry because he didn't get his way. He roared loudly and ran after Chipmunk. He chased Chipmunk all the way down the mountain. Bear was fast, and he reached out his giant paw to grab Chipmunk. Chipmunk got away, but not before Bear managed to scratch her back with his long claws. And that is why, to this day, you can see stripes on Chipmunk's back!

1. What is the theme of this story?
 - a) Stand up for what you believe.
 - b) It is always better to go along with the crowd.
 - c) There is only one right way to do things.
 - d) Making decisions is easy.

2. What is Bear like?
 - a) He is a good listener.
 - b) He is used to getting his way.
 - c) He is unsure about what he wants.
 - d) He is well liked by the other animals.

3. Where does the story take place?
 - a) in a barn
 - b) on an island
 - c) near a lake
 - d) on a mountaintop

4. What happened after Chipmunk's argument with Bear?
 - a) The animals saw their first sunrise ever.
 - b) Bear was happy that he got his way.
 - c) The animals continued to live in darkness.
 - d) Chipmunk fell asleep.



It's All Clear Now

It all started at the beginning of fifth grade. At first, Carmen wasn't really sure what was happening. In class, she had to squint to see the blackboard clearly. She had to do the same thing when she read street signs, or when she watched a movie. As the fuzziness got worse, she became more and more worried. It was important for her to see the notes and homework assignments the teacher put on the board.

It wasn't long before Carmen found herself squinting all the time, but she didn't want anyone to know that she was having a problem seeing. In class, she asked for a desk that was closer to the board. One day, her teacher said, "Carmen, are you all right? I've noticed you squinting a lot. Are you having trouble seeing the board?"

Carmen shook her head. "I'm fine, Mrs. Cruz," she said, but she knew she couldn't pretend much longer.

At home, she had to sit closer and closer to the television in order to see the picture. Her mother noticed her squinting as she watched her favorite shows, and she began to get suspicious.

"Tomorrow I'm calling the eye doctor to set up an appointment for you," she said firmly. Carmen protested, but her mother's mind was made up.

Three days later, Carmen had new glasses and instructions from her doctor to wear them all the time. Carmen frowned in the car the whole way home.

"All of the kids at school will think I'm a nerd," she said. Her mother smiled and shook her head.

"You look just as beautiful with those glasses on as you do without them," she said. But Carmen didn't believe her.

The next day, Carmen kept the glasses in her pocket as she walked into the schoolyard. She avoided her friends and stood alone, feeling miserable. Suddenly, she heard her friend Theresa shout. Carmen ran over to the other girls. "What's wrong?" she asked.

"My silver ring is gone!" Theresa cried. "My sister sent it to me from California. It's very special and I can't lose it!"

Carmen could tell that Theresa was very upset. They all looked for the ring in the grassy area of the playground.

Carmen realized that she could search better if she could see better. She took the glasses out of her pocket and put them on. The objects and people around her came

into sharp focus. She caught her breath. Everything looked so different! So clear! She looked down at the ground and a glimmer of silver caught her eye. It was the ring.

"Here it is," she shouted. "I've found it!" She handed it to Theresa, and Theresa slipped the ring back on her finger.

"Thanks Carmen," she said. "I never thought we'd find it." She paused. "Hey, I didn't know you wore glasses. They look great!"

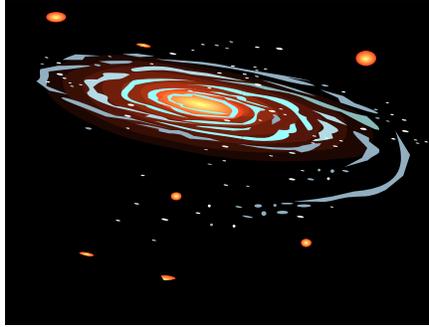
Carmen had forgotten that she was wearing the new glasses. "Thanks," she replied shyly. As they walked back toward the school building, two more girls from her class complimented her glasses. Carmen smiled. "Maybe wearing glasses won't be so bad after all," she thought

5. BEFORE Carmen got glasses she
- a) thought having glasses wouldn't be so bad.
 - b) wasn't able to see the board clearly.
 - c) found Theresa's missing ring.
 - d) sat far away from the television.

6. Based on the end of the story, what do you think Carmen will do next?
- a) She won't tell her friends that she needs to wear glasses.
 - b) She will keep her glasses in her pocket where no one can see them.
 - c) She will wear her glasses all the time.
 - d) She will wear her glasses only when she is with her family.

7. Read this sentence from the story. Her mother noticed her squinting as she watched her favorite shows, and she began to get *suspicious*. What is a synonym for the word *suspicious*?
- a) Doubtful
 - b) Guilty
 - c) Innocent
 - d) Trusting

8. The author's purpose in writing this story is to
- a) explain how important it is to take care of your eyes at school.
 - b) show that sometimes we imagine things will be worse than they are.
 - c) describe what it feels like to have to squint.
 - d) warn people not to wear valuable jewelry to school.



Amazing Black Holes

How many things can you see in the night sky? A lot! On a clear night you might see the Moon, some planets, and thousands of sparkling stars. You can see even more with a telescope. You might see stars where before you only saw dark space. You might see that many stars look larger than others. You might see that some stars that look white are really red or blue. With bigger and bigger telescopes you can see more and more objects in the sky. And you can see those objects in more and more detail.

But scientists believe there are some things in the sky that we will never see. We won't see them with the biggest telescope in the world, on the clearest night of the year. That's because they're invisible. They're the mysterious dead stars called black holes.

You might find it hard to imagine that stars die. After all, our Sun is a star. Year after year we see it up in the sky, burning brightly, giving us heat and light. The Sun certainly doesn't seem to be getting old or weak. But stars do burn out and die after billions of years.

As a star's gases burn, they give off light and heat. But when the gas runs out, the star stops burning and begins to die. As the star cools, the outer layers of the star pull in toward the center. The star squashes into a smaller and smaller ball. If the star was very small, the star ends up as a cold, dark ball called a black dwarf. If the star was very big, it keeps squashing inward until it's packed together tighter than anything in the universe.

Imagine if the Earth were crushed until it was the size of a tiny marble. That's how tightly this dead star, a black hole, is packed. What pulls the star in toward its center with such power? It's the same force that pulls you down when you jump — the force called gravity. A black hole is so tightly packed that its gravity sucks in everything — even light. The light from a black hole can never come back to your eyes. That's why you see nothing but blackness.

So the next time you stare up at the night sky, remember: there's more in the sky than meets the eye! Scattered in the silent darkness are black holes — the great mystery of space.

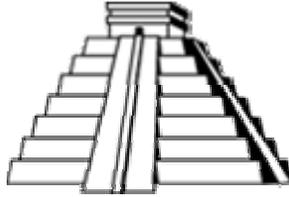
9. According to the article, what causes a star to die?
- a) As its gases run out, it cools down.
 - b) It collides with other stars.
 - c) It can only live for about a million years.
 - d) As it gets hotter and hotter, it explodes.

10. Which of the following statements is NOT a fact?
- a) Black holes are dead stars.
 - b) Black holes have gravity.
 - c) Black holes are invisible.
 - d) There is nothing as mysterious as a black hole.

11. What happens AFTER a star dies?
- a) It becomes invisible.
 - b) It falls to Earth.
 - c) It burns up all of its gases.
 - d) It becomes brighter and easier to see.

12. Why can't you see light when you look at a black hole?
- a) because most black holes are so far away
 - b) because the gravity of a black hole is so strong that it sucks the light inward
 - c) because as the star's gases burn, it stops giving off heat and light
 - d) because as a star cools, its outer layers pull in toward its center

The Mystery of the Mayas



The Mayan Indians lived in Mexico for thousands of years before the Spanish arrived in the 1500s. The Maya were an intelligent, culturally rich people whose achievements were many. They had farms, beautiful palaces, and cities with many buildings. The Mayan people knew a lot about nature and the world around them. This knowledge helped them to live a better life than most people of that time, because they could use it to make their lives more comfortable and rewarding. Knowledge about tools and farming, for instance, made their work easier and more productive.

In ancient Mexico there were many small clearings in the forest. In each clearing was a village with fields of corn, beans, and other crops around it. To clear the land for farms, the Maya cut down trees with stone axes. They planted seeds by digging holes in the ground with pointed sticks. A farmer was able to grow crops that produced food for several people. But not every Maya had to be a farmer. Some were cloth makers, builders, or priests.

The Maya believed in many gods, including rain gods, sun gods, and corn gods. The people built large temples to honor the Mayan gods. Skillful workers built cities around these temples. It was difficult for them to construct these cities, because they had no horses to carry the heavy stone they used to build with. Workers had to carry all of the building materials themselves. Today, many of these ancient Mayan cities and temples are still standing.

Although the cities that the Maya built were beautiful, and the people worked hard to build them, very few of the people lived in them. Usually, only the priests lived in the cities.

The other people lived in small villages in the forests. Their houses were much simpler than the elaborate structures in the cities. They lived in small huts with no windows. The walls were made of poles covered with dried mud, and the roof was made of grass or leaves. Most Maya lived a simple life close to nature.

Measuring time was important to the Maya, so they developed a system for measuring it accurately. Farmers needed to know when to plant and harvest their crops. Mayan priests made a system to keep track of time. They wrote numbers as dots (...) and bars (-). A dot was one and a bar was five.

The Mayan priests studied the Sun, Moon, stars, and planets. They made a calendar from what they learned. The year was divided into 18 months of 20 days each with five days left over. The Mayan calendar was far more accurate than the European calendars of the time.

Around the year 800, the Maya left their villages and beautiful cities, never to return. No one knows why this happened. They may have died from an infectious disease. They may have left because the soil could no longer grow crops. Archaeologists are still trying to find the lost secrets of the Maya. They are still one of our greatest mysteries.

13. The Maya lived in Mexico_____.

- a) only after the Spanish arrived.
- b) at the same time as the Spanish.
- c) only for a few years.
- d) thousands of years before the Spanish.

14. Many Mayan cities and temples are still standing today because

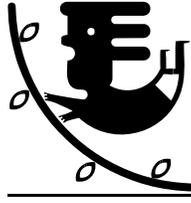
- a) they were so well built.
- b) they are not very old.
- c) they have been rebuilt.
- d) there is never any bad weather in Mexico.

15. What is the main idea of this article?

- a) The Mayan calendar was more accurate than the European calendar.
- b) The Maya were excellent farmers.
- c) The Maya were a culturally rich, advanced society.
- d) The Mayan cities were difficult to build.

16. Finish this statement: MOST Maya lived_____.

- a) in beautiful cities.
- b) in huts made of poles, mud, and leaves.
- c) in caves.
- d) in stone temples.



Tarzan of the Apes

Edgar Rice Burroughs wrote a very famous story called Tarzan of the Apes. This story involves a shipwreck on the West coast of Africa. The passengers on the ship include a certain Lord and Lady Greystoke from England. Lord and Lady Greystoke are the only survivors of the shipwreck.

Lord Greystoke builds a kind of shelter high up in the trees - a treehouse - for his pregnant wife and does his best to make them comfortable in their new jungle home. Lady Greystoke gives birth to a boy. They call the boy John. Unfortunately, she dies and leaves Lord Greystoke to take care of the baby on his own. Lord Greystoke is killed by an enormous ape that comes to investigate the strange house in the trees. The baby is left all alone. Fortunately, a female ape, whose baby has recently died, finds the human baby alone in the treehouse. Even though the baby is white, did have any hair and was tiny, she feels a mother's love for it and begins to feed and take care of it. She becomes John's mother. John - who later takes the name Tarzan, never having known his real identity - grows strong and powerful living among the apes. He has the advantage of human intelligence and eventually grows up to be leader of the apes and, eventually, lord of the jungle.

The books tell many stories of Tarzan's adventures in the jungles, his fights with savage animals, his encounters with other human beings (many of whom are as dangerous as the animals) and his re-discovery of his true identity. Tarzan eventually teaches himself to read by returning to the treehouse where he was born and finding some children's books that his parents brought from England. He later finds out who he really is (an English Lord!) and travels to England to visit his home, where he falls in love with a young woman called Jane.

17. What is the sequence of events in Tarzan's life?

- a) He lived in a tree house, his parents died, and he was shipwrecked.
- b) He was shipwrecked, he lived in a tree house, and his parents died.
- c) His parents died, he was shipwrecked, and he lived in a tree house.
- d) He lived in a tree house, he was shipwrecked, and his parents died

18. Which statement best describe the characteristics of baby Tarzan

- a) Brown, hairless and fat
- b) White, hairless and cute
- c) White, hairless and tiny
- d) White, hairy and tiny

19. This would be a good story to share with friends because

- a) It has many interesting descriptions
- b) The adventures are exciting
- c) It is a short story and easy to read
- d) All of the above

20. What is the cause and effect of the events that changed Tarzan's life?

- a) Both parents died and he was raised by a female ape.
- b) He was shipwrecked and later rescued.
- c) Tarzan loved to read, so he learned English from books.
- d) He had many stories of jungle life.

Reading Test Answer Key
Grades 3-5 Early Advanced/Advanced Level

Question	Answer		Function	Student Response (Correct or Incorrect)	
1.	A	Stand up for what you believe	Make Predictions, Inferences, Cause and Effect	C	I
2.	B	He is used to getting his way.	Describe Characteristics of People, Places and Things	C	I
3.	D	On a mountaintop	Ask and Answer Clarifying and Informational Questions	C	I
4.	A	The animals saw their first sunrise ever.	Describe Spatial and Temporal Relations	C	I
5.	B	Wasn't able to see the whiteboard clearly.	Describe Spatial and Temporal Relations	C	I
6.	C	She will wear her glasses all the time.	Make Predictions, Inferences, Cause and Effect	C	I
7.	A	Doubtful	Define, Explain Actions and Sequence	C	I
8.	B	Show that sometimes we imagine things will be worse than they are.	Summarize, Draw Conclusions and Make Generalizations	C	I
9.	A	As its gases run out, it cools down.	Make Predictions, Inferences, Cause and Effect	C	I
10.	D	There is nothing as mysterious as a black hole.	Describe Characteristics of People Places and Things	C	I
11.	A	It becomes invisible.	Describe Spatial and Temporal Relations	C	I
12.	B	Because the gravity of a black hole is so strong that it sucks the light inward	Make Predictions, Inferences, Cause and Effect	C	I
13.	D	Thousands of years before the Spanish	Describe Spatial and Temporal Relations	C	I
14.	A	They were so well built	Make Predictions, Inferences, Cause and Effect	C	I
15.	C	The Maya were a culturally rich, advanced society.	Summarize, Draw Conclusions and Make Generalizations	C	I
16.	B	In huts made of poles, mud and leaves.	Summarize, Draw Conclusions and Make Generalizations	C	I
17.	B	He was shipwrecked, he lived in a tree house, and his parents died.	Define, Explain Actions, Sequence	C	I
18.	C	White, hairless and tiny	Describe Characteristics of People, Places and Things	C	I
19.	D	All of the above	Justify and Persuade	C	I
20.	A	Both parents died and he was raised by a female ape.	Make Predictions, Inferences, Cause and Effect	C	I

Functions Requiring Further Development

- Summarize, Draw Conclusions and Make Generalizations
- Describe Characteristics of People, Places and Things
- Make Predictions, Inferences, Cause and Effect
- Ask and Answer Clarifying and Informational Questions
- Define, Explain Actions and Sequence
- Describe Spatial and Temporal Relations
- Justify and Persuade