



Kansas Assessment Prep Grade 5 Reading Comprehension

with Extra Writing Practice

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To the Students

Tips for Answering Multiple-Choice Questions

Multiple-choice questions have a stem, which is a question or an incomplete sentence, followed by four answer choices. You should select only one answer choice. The following are some tips to help you correctly answer multiple-choice questions on the Grade 5 Kansas Reading Assessment:

- Read each passage carefully.
- Read each question and think about the answer. You may look back to the reading selection as often as necessary.
- Answer all questions on your answer sheet. Do not mark any answers to questions in your test booklet.
- For each question, choose the best answer, and completely fill in the circle in the space provided on your answer sheet.
- If you do not know the answer to a question, skip it and go on. You may return to it later if you have time.
- If you finish the section of the test that you are working on early, you may review your answers in that section only. Don't go on to the next section of the test.

Tips for Answering Open-Response Questions

In this book, students will also be asked to answer open-response questions once they have finished reading some of the passages. Although no open-response questions will appear on the actual test, these items will allow students to practice their writing skills by answering questions about a passage in their own words.

Remember to:

- Read the question carefully. Be sure you understand it before you begin writing.
- Be sure your essay has a main idea. This should be in your introduction.
- Support your main idea with details, explanations, and examples.
- State your ideas in a clear sequence.
- Include an opening and a closing.
- Use a variety of words and vary your sentence structure.
- Check your spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.
- Write neatly.

from “THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS”

by *Kenneth Grahame*

“Sit down there, Toad,” said the Badger kindly, pointing to a chair. “My friends,” he went on, “I am pleased to inform you that Toad has at last seen the error of his ways. He is truly sorry for his misguided conduct in the past. He has undertaken to give up motor-cars entirely and for ever. I have his solemn promise to that effect.”

“That is very good news,” said the Mole gravely.

“Very good news indeed,” observed the Rat dubiously, “if only—IF only—”

He was looking very hard at Toad as he said this, and could not help thinking he perceived something vaguely resembling a twinkle in that animal’s still sorrowful eye.

“There’s only one thing more to be done,” continued the gratified Badger. “Toad, I want you solemnly to repeat, before your friends here, what you fully admitted to me in the smoking-room just now. First, you are sorry for what you’ve done, and you see the folly of it all?”

There was a long, long pause. Toad looked desperately this way and that, while the other animals waited in grave silence. At last he spoke.

“No!” he said, a little sullenly, but stoutly; “I’m NOT sorry. And it wasn’t folly at all! It was simply glorious!”

“What?” cried the Badger, greatly scandalized. “You backsliding animal, didn’t you tell me just now, in there—”

“Oh, yes, yes, in THERE,” said Toad impatiently. “I’d have said anything in THERE. You’re so eloquent, dear Badger, and so moving, and so convincing, and put all your points so frightfully well. You can do what you like with me in THERE, and you know it. But I’ve been searching my mind since, and going over things in it. I find that I’m not a bit sorry or repentant really, so it’s no earthly good saying I am; now, is it?”

“Then you don’t promise,” said the Badger, “never to touch a motor-car again?”

“Certainly not!” replied Toad emphatically. “On the contrary, I faithfully promise that the very first motor-car I see, poop—poop! Off I go in it!”

“Told you so, didn’t I?” observed the Rat to the Mole.

“Very well, then,” said the Badger firmly, rising to his feet. “Since you won’t yield to persuasion, we’ll try what force can do. I feared it would come to this all along. You’ve often asked us three to come and stay with you, Toad, in this handsome house of yours; well, now we’re going to. When we’ve converted you to a proper point of view we may quit, but not before. Take him upstairs, you two, and lock him up in his bedroom, while we arrange matters between ourselves.”

“It’s for your own good, Toady, you know,” said the Rat kindly, as Toad, kicking and struggling, was hauled up the stairs by his two faithful friends. “Think what fun we shall all have together, just as we used to, when you’ve quite got over this—this painful attack of yours!”

“We’ll take great care of everything for you till you’re well, Toad,” said the Mole. “We’ll see your money isn’t wasted, as it has been.”

“No more of those regrettable incidents with the police, Toad,” said the Rat, as they thrust him into his bedroom.

“And no more weeks in hospital, being ordered about by female nurses, Toad,” added the Mole, turning the key on him.

They descended the stair, Toad shouting abuse at them through the keyhole. The three friends then met in conference on the situation.

“It’s going to be a tedious business,” said the Badger, sighing. “I’ve never seen Toad so determined. However, we will see it out. He must never be left an instant unguarded. We shall have to take it in turns to be with him, till the poison has worked itself out of his system.”

1. Based on the passage, to get in trouble at the beginning of the passage, Toad **PROBABLY**
 - A. crashed his car.
 - B. purchased a house.
 - C. tricked the Mole.
 - D. went to court.

2. What is Toad's MAJOR conflict in the passage?
 - A. He thinks Badger has lied to him.
 - B. His friends are all angry with him.
 - C. He does not have a car to drive.
 - D. His friends want him to stop driving.

3. How do the other animals feel about Toad's behavior?
 - A. They find it amusing.
 - B. They encourage it.
 - C. They are concerned about it.
 - D. They are not interested in it.

4. The MAIN way Badger acts while dealing with the other animals is
 - A. tired and gloomy.
 - B. angry and mean.
 - C. shocked and helpless.
 - D. strong and persuasive.

5. How are Rat, Mole, and Badger ALIKE?
 - A. They want to help protect Toad.
 - B. They have been hurt by Toad's driving.
 - C. They living in the same house.
 - D. They know how to drive very well.

COMPOSTING

“Composting” turns household waste into valuable fertilizer for the plants and trees in your yard.

In Your Backyard

All living (or organic) matter eventually “decomposes,” or decays. Composting speeds up this process. The final product—humus or compost—looks and feels like healthy, fertile garden soil. This dark, crumbly, earthy-smelling stuff works wonders on all kinds of soil and provides important nutrients to help plants grow and look better.

Getting Started

Many materials can be added to a compost pile, including leaves, grass clippings, straw, woody brush, vegetable and fruit scraps, coffee grounds, livestock manure, sawdust, and shredded paper. However, do not use diseased plants, meat scraps that may attract animals, and dog or cat manure, which can carry diseases. Composting can be as simple or as involved as you would like. It depends on how much yard waste you have, how fast you want results, and the time you are willing to spend composting.

Choose a level, well-drained site, preferably near your garden. Select a compost bin. There are many styles of compost bins available. You could use a movable bin formed by wire mesh, or a more substantial structure with several compartments.

While a bin will help to contain the pile, it is not absolutely necessary. You can build your pile directly on the ground. To help air to reach the compost, you may want to place some wooden material on the ground where you will build your pile.

Steps to Build a Compost Pile:

1. To build your pile, mix together equal amounts of high-carbon and high-nitrogen material and then heap this mixture into a pile. If you do not have enough high-nitrogen material, you can add a small amount of store-bought fertilizer that contains nitrogen. Apply it at the rate of half a cup of fertilizer for each 10-inch layer of material. Adding a few shovels of soil will also help get the pile off to a good start.
2. Water your pile from time to time. The pile should be moist, but not sopping wet. If the pile is too wet, not enough air will be able to reach down into it. Bad odors also are more likely if the pile is very wet.
3. Punch holes in the sides of the pile to allow air to get in.

4. The pile will heat up and then begin to cool. Start turning the pile over into itself when its internal temperature reaches about 130 to 140 degrees Fahrenheit. You can track this with a compost thermometer, or simply reach into the pile to determine if it is uncomfortably hot to the touch.
5. During the composting season, check your bin regularly to make sure that the pile is the right temperature, that it is getting the air it needs, and that it is not too wet.
6. Shift the pile's materials around so that the things in the center move to the outside and vice versa. If you turn the pile every day or two, you should get compost in less than four weeks. Turning it every other week will make compost in one to three months. Finished compost will smell sweet and be cool and crumbly to the touch.

When you feel that the compost is ready, use it to fertilize your gardens. You should be happy knowing that your gardens will be more healthy and beautiful, and that you're helping the earth as well.

1. Why should you avoid using dog or cat manure in your compost pile?
 - A. They carry diseases that could make you ill.
 - B. They will heat the compost pile too quickly.
 - C. They stop air from moving through the compost.
 - D. They make the compost pile too heavy to turn over.

2. What would PROBABLY happen if you forgot to turn your compost pile over?
 - A. It will start to get smaller.
 - B. It will start to smell bad.
 - C. It will cool down too much.
 - D. It will be ready faster.

3. What is the author's MAIN purpose for writing this passage?
- A. to persuade people to compost
 - B. to explain how to compost
 - C. to compare different ways of composting
 - D. to tell a story about someone who composts
4. According to the passage, how are all organic materials ALIKE?
- A. They are used in compost piles.
 - B. They are healthy and dark.
 - C. They decompose or decay.
 - D. They help plants to grow better.
5. According to step 1, what can you add to your compost pile to give it more high-nitrogen material?
- A. garden soil
 - B. fertilizer
 - C. wood
 - D. clean water

“I TRAVELLED AMONG UNKNOWN MEN”

by William Wordsworth (1770–1850)

I travelled among unknown men,
In lands beyond the sea;
Nor, England! did I know till then
What love I bore to thee.
‘Tis past, that melancholy dream!
Nor will I quit thy shore
A second time; for still I seem
To love thee more and more.
Among thy mountains did I feel
The joy of my desire;
And she I cherished turned her wheel
Beside an English fire.

1. What caused the poet’s feelings for his country?
 - A. his love for a woman
 - B. moving away from England
 - C. his love of the ocean
 - D. traveling through England

2. What is the MAIN idea of the poem?
 - A. A man promises to stay in his country.
 - B. A man enjoys living among the mountains.
 - C. A man realizes how much he loves his country.
 - D. A man has traveled to many different places.

3. In the last two lines of the poem, what is the speaker talking about?
- A. the places he has visited
 - B. friends he has made
 - C. a woman whom he loves
 - D. his love for his country
4. In the poem, the phrase “nor will I quit thy shore” probably means
- A. the narrator misses people he knew.
 - B. the narrator won’t change his plans.
 - C. the narrator wants to bring a guest.
 - D. the narrator won’t leave England.

