



# WESTEST Grade 4 Reading Comprehension

by Jonathan D. Kantrowitz

Edited by Katherine Pierpont, Kathleen Trenske, and Sarah M.W. Espano

Item Code RAS 2361 • Copyright © 2008 Queue, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of the material protected by this copyright may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system. Printed in the United States of America.

Queue, Inc. • 1 Controls Drive, Shelton, CT 06484  
(800) 232-2224 • Fax: (800) 775-2729 • [www.qworkbooks.com](http://www.qworkbooks.com)

# Table of Contents

<b>To the Students</b> .....	v
The Farmer's Daughter and the Pail .....	1
Nellie Bly .....	5
The Swimming Party .....	9
Ancient Egyptian Pyramids .....	13
"I Spy Something Red" .....	18
An Excerpt from <i>Peter Pan</i> , or <i>The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up</i> by J.M. Barrie .....	22
The Fox and the Grapes .....	25
The Foolish Puppy .....	27
Keep Your Food Safe .....	29
Whole Wheat Pecan Waffles.....	33
"Bear," from <i>How to Know the Wild Animals</i> by Carolyn Wells .....	36
"Chameleon," from <i>How to Know the Wild Animals</i> by Carolyn Wells .....	38
Abraham Lincoln's Tale .....	40
"The Purple Cow" by Gelett Burgess.....	42
Project Day .....	44
Town Mouse and Country Mouse.....	46
The Thirsty Bird .....	48
Jan's Birthday Party.....	51
Perfect Day for Sailing .....	56
The Lion and the Mouse.....	59
Restless Evening.....	62
from "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" .....	64
by Samuel Taylor Coleridge	
Atalanta and the Prince .....	67
from "The Children's Hour" .....	71
by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	
Skitch & Ramona's Fort .....	73
Skitch & Ramona's Fort—Part II .....	76
from "The Star-Spangled Banner" .....	80
by Francis Scott Key	
"Sea-Fever" by John Masefield .....	82
The Oak and the Reed .....	84
"The Daffodils" by William Wordsworth .....	86
The Farmer and the Cat.....	89
Androcles and the Lion.....	92
Midas's Secret .....	96
French Toast .....	99
Make a Collage .....	103
What Are Sprains and Strains? .....	107
How Will Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Help Me? .....	112
Mount St. Helens Erupts .....	114
Constellations .....	118
Gift of an Apple Tree.....	123
Trip to an Art Exhibit .....	126
Trip to Switzerland .....	130
from <i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> .....	134
by Mark Twain	
Pilgrim Children .....	137
Battle of Trenton.....	140
from "Miss Lulu Bett" by Zona Gale .....	144
Dr. Smithers in the Basement .....	149
Killer Whale .....	153
Friends.....	157
from <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave</i> .....	160
by Frederick Douglass	
David Meets His Cousins .....	162
Ann Plays in the Spring Concert .....	165
Paul Robeson .....	169
from <i>The Happy Prince</i> by Oscar Wilde .....	174
Roger Sherman .....	177
"Old Ironsides" by Oliver Wendell Holmes .....	181
Raccoons .....	183
Abigail Adams .....	188
Ladybug Law.....	191
Autumn Moon Holiday .....	196
Woodrow Wilson .....	200
New Amsterdam's Buildings .....	204
New Amsterdam Life .....	206
from <i>Tarzan of the Apes</i> .....	208
by Edgar Rice Burroughs	
from <i>The Wonderful Wizard of Oz</i> .....	212
by L. Frank Baum	
Chipmunk and Bear .....	218
The Raven .....	222
from <i>The Railway Children</i> by E. Nesbit .....	225
Planting a Tree .....	235
from <i>The Wonderful Wizard of Oz</i> .....	
Part II by L. Frank Baum .....	239
Arts and Crafts Projects .....	247

# To the Students

## Tips for Answering Multiple-Choice Questions

Multiple-choice questions have a **stem**, which is a question or 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 4 West Virginia Reading Assessment:

- Read each passage carefully.
- Read each question and think about the answer. You may look back to the reading passage 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 Short-Answer and Constructed-Response Questions

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 CHILDREN’S HOUR”**

*by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

Between the dark and the daylight,  
When the night is beginning to lower,  
Comes a pause in the day’s occupations,  
That is known as the Children’s Hour.

I hear in the chamber above me  
The patter of little feet,  
The sound of a door that is opened,  
And voices soft and sweet.

From my study I see in the lamplight,  
Descending the broad hall stair,  
Grave Alice, and laughing Allegra,  
And Edith with golden hair.

A whisper, and then a silence:  
Yet I know by their merry eyes  
They are plotting and planning together  
To take me by surprise.

A sudden rush from the stairway,  
A sudden raid from the hall!  
By three doors left unguarded  
They enter my castle wall!

They climb up into my turret  
O’er the arms and back of my chair;  
If I try to escape, they surround me;  
They seem to be everywhere.

1. What is happening at the beginning of the passage?
  - A. The author is sitting alone in the room.
  - B. The author is looking after the children.
  - C. The children are playing in the study.
  - D. The children are talking to their father.
  
2. Which word **best** describes the place in this poem?
  - A. joyful
  - B. unbelievable
  - C. scary
  - D. dangerous
  
3. When does the story take place?
  - A. in the evening just before dark
  - B. in the morning before school
  - C. on a bright Saturday morning
  - D. at night just before bedtime
  
4. How does the author probably feel about Children's Hour?
  - A. He wishes the children would not bother him at that time.
  - B. He thinks it's a wonderful time for him and the children.
  - C. He wishes he was a child again so he could have fun.
  - D. He does not like to see the children fooling around.

# ANDROCLES AND THE LION

In the days of ancient Rome, a slave named Androcles escaped from his master. He ran deep into a forest. There he met a huge lion. Androcles turned to run. Then he noticed that the lion was in great pain. A thorn was wedged into one paw. The paw was swollen and bloody.

Androcles came close to the lion. The great beast lay still. The slave then examined the foot. He pulled out the thorn. Androcles wrapped the swollen paw. Soon the lion was better. The grateful beast took Androcles to its lair. The lion brought the man food every day.

Early one morning, while the friends were asleep, the lion heard a noise outside his den. He wanted to run away, but waited to wake up Androcles. By the time Androcles awoke, it was too late. They were trapped. Soldiers were outside the cave with nets. The soldiers captured both the slave and his friend, the lion.

Androcles was sentenced to die for having run away from his master. In Rome, slaves were killed by being fed to hungry lions in the Coliseum. All of Rome came to the arena where Androcles was to be thrown to the lions.

Androcles was very afraid. As he stood in the center of the field, a huge lion came running at him. It was Androcles' old friend!

The emperor was amazed when the lion licked Androcles' hand. When he learned the story of the two friends, he pardoned them both saying, "Gratitude is the sign of noble souls."

1. Where did Androcles run after he escaped?
  - A. a city
  - B. the country
  - C. a forest
  - D. an arena

2. Why didn't the lion eat Androcles when they first met?

- A. Androcles was too thin.
- B. The lion's paw was hurt.
- C. Androcles had a sword.
- D. The lion was not hungry.

3. Which **best** describes how the lion felt about Androcles?

- A. He thought that Androcles was funny.
- B. He thought that Androcles was smart.
- C. He was grateful to Androcles.
- D. He was annoyed by Androcles.

4. Read this sentence from the story.

*The grateful beast took Androcles to its lair.*

*Lair* probably means about the same as

- A. city.
- B. den.
- C. school.
- D. park.

5. Why did the lion wait for Androcles to wake up?

- A. The lion wanted to see where Androcles would run.
- B. The lion wanted to be sure that Androcles could escape.
- C. The lion wanted to eat Androcles in front of the soldiers.
- D. The lion wanted to attack the people with Androcles.

6. Why was Androcles sentenced to die?
- A. Androcles was a runaway slave.
  - B. He did a bad job at the Coliseum.
  - C. Androcles had helped a lion.
  - D. It was against the law to live with a lion.
7. What did the Romans probably think would happen in the Coliseum?
- A. The lion would lick Androcles.
  - B. The lion would kill Androcles.
  - C. Androcles would kill the lion.
  - D. Androcles would ride on the lion.
8. Which **best** describes the emperor's reaction to what happened in the Coliseum?
- A. The emperor was upset at the lion when it did not kill Androcles.
  - B. The emperor thought that Androcles would be a good lion tamer.
  - C. The emperor believed that Androcles must have special powers.
  - D. The emperor was moved by how the lion treated Androcles.



9. Do you think that Androcles deserved to die? Why or why not? Use details from the passage to explain your answer.

[illegible]

# **HOW WILL HEALTHY EATING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY HELP ME?**

Eating well and being physically active are keys to your well-being. Eating too much and exercising too little can lead to becoming overweight and developing related health problems. These problems can follow you into your adult years.

All children benefit from healthy eating and physical activity. A balanced diet and being physically active help children to grow, to learn, and to build strong bones and muscles. They also help a child to have energy, to maintain a healthy weight, to avoid obesity-related diseases (like type 2 diabetes), to get plenty of nutrients, and to feel good about themselves.

## **How Can I Eat Better?**

- Try to eat a healthy snack or two in addition to your three daily meals such as grains, vegetables, fruit, low fat dairy products, and lean meat or beans.
- Eat snacks like dried fruit, low-fat yogurt, and air-popped popcorn.
- Keep trying new foods even if you do not like them at first.
- Ask your parents to cook with less fat—to bake, roast, or poach foods instead of frying.
- Limit the amount of added sugar in your diet.
- Choose cereals with low sugar or no added sugar.
- Drink water or low-fat milk more often than you drink sugar-sweetened sodas and fruit-flavored drinks.
- Choose and prepare foods with less salt.
- Keep the salt shaker off the table.
- Have fruits and vegetables on hand for snacks instead of salty snack foods.
- Get involved in planning and preparing meals. You may be more willing to eat the dishes you have helped to fix.
- Have family meals together; serve and eat the same as everyone else.
- Do not be too strict. In small amounts, sweets or food from fast-food restaurants can still have a place in a healthy diet.
- Make sure you eat breakfast. Breakfast provides the energy you need to listen and learn in school.

## **How Can I Be More Active?**

Focus on fun. Try hiking, biking, jumping rope, dancing, basketball, or roller-skating. Also focus on being helpful. Participate in household activities like cleaning, doing laundry, washing the car, dog walking, or lawn mowing.

Limit your TV and computer time. Ask if you could join a local recreation center or an after-school program, or take lessons in a sport you enjoy. Try to be physically active every day.

1. The author most likely wrote the passage
  - A. to describe to readers the best places to buy healthy foods.
  - B. to show readers how they can eat healthily and get exercise.
  - C. to tell readers about why they should eat different types of food.
  - D. to explain to readers how difficult it can be to exercise daily.
  
2. What should you eat instead of salty snacks?
  - A. fresh fruits
  - B. candy
  - C. sugar-sweetened sodas
  - D. fast foods
  
3. How might someone who eats a balanced diet be different from someone who does not?
  - A. A person who eats a balanced diet might have more energy.
  - B. A person who does not eat a balanced diet might be smarter.
  - C. A person who eats a balanced diet might watch more television.
  - D. A person who does not eat a balanced diet might be stronger.
  
4. Why is it important to eat breakfast?
  - A. Breakfast gives you the power to listen and learn during school.
  - B. Breakfast is one of the three meals that you should eat every day.
  - C. Eating breakfast is a chance to spend time with your family.
  - D. Eating breakfast keeps you from being hungry before lunch.

