

SKILLS LIST and SAMPLE ITEMS FOR
PRACTICE TEST, READING, GRADE 9
(Test items developed for skills measured in FCAT)

Skills

- 1.0 Vocabulary
 - 1.1 Meaning of Words
 - 2.0 Comprehension
 - 2.1 Compare/Contrast
 - 2.2 Main Idea/Supporting Details/
Chronological Order
 - 2.3 Author's Purpose/Point of View
 - 2.4 Locates/Evaluates Written Information
 - 2.5 Accuracy/Reliability of Information
 - 2.6 Draw Conclusions
 - 2.7 Cause and Effect
 - 2.8 Analyzes Plot/Setting/Major Events/
Problems/Conflicts/Resolutions
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Number of questions: 55

Number of pages: 19

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FCAT READING PRACTICE TEST - GRADE 9

Read "The Old Leather Pouch" and then answer Numbers 1 through 7.



THE OLD LEATHER POUCH



Since the beginning of civilization, money has been an important part of everyday life. Money wasn't always what it is today. Ancient cultures used whatever was available as a form of currency: shells, food, beads, even rocks. Modern money has come a long way since the days when people traded clamshells for corn, but nothing is as strange as the newest use for money: selling it.

People who sell old money for a price are called numismatologists. Numismatology is the art of coin collecting. Numismatologists collect old coins, foreign coins, coins that have never been used, and coins made by mistake and often sell them for a profit. Some collectors value coins simply for their beauty and sense of history. Collectors like these may take rare coins into their collections and keep them for a lifetime. When coins are hoarded by collectors, they become difficult to find and soon they are worth large amounts of money. It is possible today to find dimes, nickels, or even pennies that are worth thousands of dollars!

People who don't understand numismatology say that keeping money instead of spending it is a fool's game. A young man once told an old collector that he was wasting his time and money collecting coins. The old coin collector told that young man this story:

"My grandfather worked on the railroads when he was a young man. A train would come into town and it was his job to clean out the freight cars after they had been unloaded so that they could be loaded again with new supplies. In those days hitchhikers would often sneak into the freight cars and ride the train without paying. When it came time to unload the cars, these hitchhikers would have to make a quick getaway so they would not be caught and punished.

"One day my grandfather was cleaning the train cars when he found a small leather pouch in the corner of a box car buried under some straw that he was sweeping. He put the pouch into his pocket and forgot about it until he went home that night. That evening, he remembered the pouch and opened it up to see what was inside. To his amazement, he found coins from various foreign countries: France, Italy, Germany, Russia, and many more.

"He kept those coins all his life. And from that day on, whenever he came across a coin from a different country, he added to the pouch. By the end of his life, he had so many different coins that the pouch was not big enough to hold them all. So he built a special wooden cabinet and lined all the drawers with red velvet. He kept his coins in this beautiful chest for the rest of his life. After his death, I received his cabinet and coins and have been adding to them ever since."

The collector showed the young man his grandfather's wooden chest, and the young man looked at the old coins with a new respect. After the young man had seen the entire collection, the collector asked him which coin was his favorite. The young man carefully picked up an old Roman coin and said, "This is my favorite."

"If that is your favorite piece," said the old collector, "then you shall keep it to start your own collection."

And the young man went home and did just that.

1. Read this sentence from the story.

Ancient cultures used whatever was available as a form of currency: shells, food, beads, even rocks.

In the first paragraph, what does the word *currency* mean?

- A. numismatology
 - B. money
 - C. profit
 - D. collector
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2. What does the author imply at the end of the story when he says, "And the young man went home and did just that."

- A. He believes that collectors have no place in society.
 - B. The young man became a numismatologist.
 - C. He wished he could have been in the young man's place.
 - D. The old collector doesn't like the young man.
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3. What caused the young man to change his opinion about coin collecting?

- A. his realization that coin collecting is profitable
 - B. the history of ancient cultures
 - C. the story of the old coin collector's grandfather finding the pouch and beginning his collection
 - D. understanding that anyone can collect coins
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4. In the first paragraph the author shares his view of coin collecting. The reader learns that

- A. ancient cultures didn't need money
 - B. clamshells are worth more than corn
 - C. he doesn't like coins
 - D. selling money is a relatively new practice
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5. When did the old collector begin his hobby of coin collecting?

- A. as an elderly man
 - B. as a young man
 - C. as a child
 - D. after he returned from the war
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