

SKILLS LIST and SAMPLE ITEMS FOR
PRACTICE TEST FOR READING, GRADE 4
(Test items developed for skills measured in MCT)

Skills

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| 1.0 Context Clues | 4.0 Main Idea/Details |
| 1.1 Words in Context | 4.1 Main Idea |
| 1.2 Multiple Meanings | 4.2 Details |
| 2.0 Word Structure | 4.3 Story Elements |
| 2.1 Suffix/Prefix/Inflectional Endings | 5.0 Extended Meaning/Thinking |
| 2.2 Synonyms, Antonyms, Homonyms | 5.1 Predictions, Inferences, Draws Conclusions |
| 2.3 Contractions, Possessives | 5.2 Cause/Effect, Sequence, Compare/Contrast |
| 3.0 Vocabulary | 5.3 Connects Literature to Real Life |
| 3.1 Meaning of Words | 5.4 Genres |
| 3.2 Sight Vocabulary | 5.5 Fact/Opinion |
| | 5.6 Analogies |
| | 5.7 Author's Purpose/Position |
| | 6.0 Workplace Data |
| | 6.1 Interprets Practical Data |
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Number of questions: 50

Number of pages: 12

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MCT PRACTICE TEST IN READING - GRADE 4

Directions: Read each passage and then read the questions that follow. Choose the best answer.

ANNA'S SURPRISE CHRISTMAS GIFT

It has been a long, dry summer in the Lafdrill Settlement where Anna and her parents had moved to start a farm a couple of summers ago. The year was 1863, and Anna's father had been given some farmland for free, if he only agreed to plant crops every year. Two years ago, the Lafdrill Settlement had been barren prairie land, but now that the government had offered the land to farmers, the area was busy with farm work. Almost one hundred families lived in the Settlement now, and the area looked like it might soon turn into a city.

But this summer had not been as good as the last. It had only rained once in the spring, and as a result, the crops were very poor this year. Anna's parents had borrowed money from the bank to buy a good horse, and now the bank needed a payment. But because the crops had been so poor, there was very little to sell. Anna's parents were short on food and money.

And now it was only a week until Christmas, and Anna knew that her parents didn't have much money for food, let alone gifts for each other. Last night as she was getting into bed to go to sleep, Anna's mother sat down on the bed beside her.

"Anna," she began, "Your father and I have had a very hard year. You know that because there was no rain, the farm did not produce well this season."

"I know," said Anna. "And I know what you want to tell me. I know that Christmas is not going to be very good this year. It's okay, Mother. I am just glad that we have this new warm cabin to live in. We have each other this year, and that will be enough."

"Oh, Anna, you are getting to be so grown-up," said Anna's mother. "You guessed right. I am sorry to have to tell you that Christmas is going to be tight this year. I am afraid that we won't even have money for a Christmas turkey. But I promise we will sing carols and play games and have as much fun as anyone."

The next morning, after Anna woke up, she was determined to find some way to make Christmas a little better this year. After getting dressed, Anna went around to the other log cabins, asking

if anyone had odd jobs they needed done. "Perhaps," thought Anna, "I can make enough money to buy a Christmas turkey for dinner this year."

But no one seemed to have any money to hire her. At least, not until she got to Mrs. Parrack's house. "I don't have any money to pay you with," she explained to Anna. "But I can give you a pumpkin pie. I need help making Christmas dinner on Christmas morning."

So Anna agreed. And on Christmas morning she arrived early at Mrs. Parrack's house to help her make a wonderful Christmas dinner. The whole morning they worked, preparing potatoes and gravy, ham and turkey, eggnog, yams, and even five pies. Anna wished that her family could have all this to eat, but she was grateful enough to get a pie. She wondered which pie Mrs. Parrack would give her.

Finally, everything was ready. "You may choose any pie you like," said Mrs. Parrack. "And please take this note to your mother." Anna chose the pecan pie, and after thanking Mrs. Parrack, ran home as quickly as her tired legs would take her.

At home, Anna's mother was glad to see the pie. "How nice of Mrs. Parrack to write a note," she commented. "I wonder what it says." The room was quiet while she read. Anna noticed a tear in her eye as she finished. "Oh, how wonderful," Anna's mother exclaimed. She read the note out loud. "Mr. Parrack and I would be pleased if you and your family would join us for Christmas dinner as soon as possible."

Anna and her parents laughed out loud because they were so happy.

1. In the first paragraph, there is a description of the farm. What does the word *barren* mean?

Two years ago, the Lafdrill Settlement had been barren prairie land, but now that the government had offered the land to farmers, the area was busy with farm work.

- A. empty
- B. correct
- C. covered with trees
- D. snowy