

SKILLS LIST and SAMPLE ITEMS FOR
PRACTICE TEST FOR READING, GRADE 8
(Test items developed for skills measured in MCT)

Skills

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|----------------------------------|---|
| 1.0 Context Clues | 5.0 Extended Meaning/Thinking |
| 1.1 Words in Context | 5.1 Genres |
| 1.2 Analogies | 5.2 Persuasive and Propaganda
Techniques |
| 2.0 Word Structure | 5.3 Organizational Patterns |
| 2.1 Suffix/Prefix/Root Words | 5.4 Author's Purpose/Point of View |
| 3.0 Vocabulary | 5.5 Figurative Language |
| 3.1 Synonyms, Antonyms, Homonyms | 5.6 Predicts, Draws Conclusions,
Infers |
| 4.0 Main Idea/Details | 5.7 Connects Literature to Real-
Life |
| 4.1 Main Idea/Summary | 6.0 Workplace Data |
| 4.2 Details | 6.1 Follows Directions |
| 4.3 Locates Information | 6.2 Locates Information |
| 4.4 Story Elements | 6.3 Specialized Vocabulary |
| 4.5 Uses Visual Aids | |
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Number of questions: 50
Number of pages: 12

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MCT PRACTICE TEST IN READING - GRADE 8

Directions: Read the passage below to answer Numbers 1 through 8.

THE FAMILY MEETING

About a month ago, at our house in Provo, Utah, my father called a family meeting. We have only had two other family meetings that I can remember: once when Grandma McCaleb died and once when my Uncle Vern was arrested for drunk driving. So I knew that something important had happened.

"Your mother and I have an important announcement to make," said my father. He and mom were sitting together on the love seat, holding hands. Mom looked a little depressed. I sat on the green and white-striped couch with my sisters Cindy and Tammy. Damion, my only brother and the youngest child, sat on a scratched brown wooden kitchen chair that had been moved into the living room for the meeting.

Before I go on, I should probably explain that my father (his name is Theo, pronounced with a hard "t" sound, like Teo) works in Provo for Stoneset Brokerage House. It's not really a house; my dad says that sometimes people who want a fancy name call a business a house. Anyway, he drives a black Jaguar and people call him "sir," and he wears a pager and doesn't go anywhere without his cellular phone, which he is always using, so I think he makes a lot of money. My mother drives Flush, not a Jaguar, and stays home to take care of the kids. Occasionally she writes stories for children's magazines, so I guess that's where I got my interest in writing.

"My company," Dad continued, "has asked me to move to another office. If I go, I get a raise and a better, more exciting position. But if I move, then we all move, and so we (he looks at my mother, whose hand he is still holding) have decided to have a family vote. We are not going to vote today, because we want to give you some time to really think about this before you decide. The place where we would be moving is not even in America. Tokyo, Japan."

Tokyo? We all started talking at once. Cindy wanted to know what we would eat. Tammy wanted to know how we would talk to any one. Secretly I think Tammy, being 15 years old, wanted to know how she was going to date if she was living in Japan. To tell the truth, I kind of had the same concern. But Dad soon cleared that up. He said that he and mom both wanted to move to Japan and hoped that we would all vote "yes" to the move. Then he explained that Damion, Cindy, and Tammy would be

attending an English-speaking school called Canadian Academy and that the students in the school would be from all over the world.

I had just finished my junior year of high school a couple of months ago, and I wondered why my name was left off the list. Maybe I would be going to a Japanese high school, but how...

"Jordan," said my father, interrupting my thoughts and speaking to the whole family, not just me, "would be staying here. Well, not here exactly. Because you (looking at me now) have only one year left until you graduate, we thought that it would be best if you took the van (he never calls it the "minivan") and went to stay with Aunt Melissa and Uncle Alex until you were ready to go to college. I talked to Uncle Alex this morning (he pauses to clear his throat), and he said that would be fine. In fact, Monica and Charlotte are hoping you decide to do it. But I told them that you would make up your own mind."

Monica and Charlotte. Marneaux, Ohio. Steward Hall High School. Flush. No family, well, except Aunt Melissa and Uncle Alex and phone calls from my parents. It was a lot to think about, and it all sounded very exciting.

"And the company would pay for you to come and visit once a year," said Dad.

So I even get to visit Japan, but I don't have to live there.

"I want to do it," I said. Everybody shut up and looked at me. "Live with Monica and go to Marneaux," I repeated.

Dad looked at Mom. "Great," they both said at once. "But," continued Dad, "we should let everyone else think about it too. We'll have another family meeting this Sunday, and everybody can give their final vote then."

That was almost a month ago, and since I am now in Ohio with Flush and all my worldly possessions, you have already guessed how the family voted on Sunday.

1. Read this sentence from the passage.

Mom looked a little depressed.

The word *depressed* is used in the story to mean

- A. held down
- B. pushed in
- C. poor
- D. unhappy