

SKILLS LIST and SAMPLE ITEMS FOR

PRACTICE TEST, READING, GRADE 8

(Test items developed for skills measured in TERRA NOVA [CTBS]*)

Skills

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|-----|---|-----|--|
| 1.0 | Literal Meaning | 4.0 | Reading Strategies |
| 1.1 | Vocabulary | 4.1 | Using Pictures/Graphs/Text Information |
| 1.2 | Stated Information | 4.2 | Summarize/Compare Information |
| 2.0 | Reading Comprehension | 5.0 | Thinking Skills |
| 2.1 | Main Idea | 5.1 | Generate Ideas |
| 2.2 | Cause/Effect; Inferences | 5.2 | Organize Information |
| 2.3 | Draw Conclusions | 5.3 | Gather Information |
| 2.4 | Story Elements | 5.4 | Analyze Information |
| 2.5 | Literary Techniques | 5.5 | Evaluating Outcomes |
| 3.0 | Extend Meaning | | |
| 3.1 | Critical Understanding | | |
| 3.2 | Distinguish Between Fact/ Opinion, Reality/Fantasy | | |
| 3.3 | Author's Intension | | |
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Number of questions: 48
Number of pages: 20
Approximate testing time: 60 minutes
CTBS and CAT are parallel tests

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(over)

Terra Nova PRACTICE TEST IN READING - GRADE 8

Directions: Read each passage and answer the questions.

GRANDPA JOE LOSES HIS MARBLES

If you didn't have marbles, you might as well not even go to school. Everyone who was anyone played with marbles during recess. The whole eighth grade had to have them. The hallways of Learner Middle School were crowded with small groups of boys and girls huddled around a circle of bright, shiny marbles. The person who won the most marbles during recess was the king of the hill for the rest of the day. And everybody wanted to win, even if just for a day. At first, the school principal wasn't sure that she wanted the hallways crowded with students and marbles, but after thinking it over, she decided to allow it. And that sure made us happy because being able to play marbles made recess a lot more fun.

And the best place to get marbles was from Grandpa Joe. Grandpa Joe was actually no one's grandfather. He owned Joe's General Store and all the kids called him Grandpa Joe. His store was special not for the candy but for the "surprise" gift you got for buying it. Everyone knew what the surprise would be. The rule at Grandpa Joe's store was that if you bought a chocolate bar, you got something out of the "Jar" for free. And this year, the jar was always full of marbles--marbles of all different colors and sizes. If you bought just one chocolate bar, you got a regular marble. If you bought three bars then you got a steely. But everybody who went to the store begged their parents for not one, not three, but five chocolate bars. You see, if you bought five chocolate bars you got the Shooter. The shooters were twice as big as regular marbles and if you did not have a shooter, you would not win a game of marbles at Learner Middle School.

Everyone played marbles. And everyone went to Grandpa Joe's to buy chocolate. Sometimes they wouldn't even eat the candy -- they just wanted the marbles. Everybody told their parents that for their birthday they wanted to go to Grandpa Joe's and choose five candy bars. Many students gave the chocolate away to their younger brothers and sisters. But they kept the marbles for themselves. So you understand why I was upset when school started Monday morning last week -- and the mood of the whole school mirrored my own. The news that had the whole school concerned spread like wild fire: Grandpa Joe had a new surprise in the "Jar." From now on, anyone who bought chocolate would get jacks. That's right, jacks. Nobody played jacks. Jacks was for babies. Something had to be done.

1. This passage mainly tells the story of a young boy who
 - A. escorts a girl named Sally to a school dance
 - B. decides to change a situation he doesn't like
 - C. earns extra money by running errands for Grandpa Joe
 - D. collects jacks and loves to eat chocolate
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2. When the narrator states that the mood of his classmates "mirrored" his own, what did he mean?
 - A. They felt the same way.
 - B. It was clear as glass.
 - C. They could see it in his eyes.
 - D. It was the opposite of his own.