

*SKILLS LIST and SAMPLE TEST ITEMS*

*FOR*

**PRACTICE TEST FOR READING, GRADE 8**

*(Test items developed for instructional objectives)*

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*Skills*

- |     |  |     |                            |
|-----|--|-----|----------------------------|
| 1.0 | Word Analysis                          | 4.0 | Language                   |
| 1.1 | Idioms/Analogies/Metaphors/<br>Similes | 4.1 | Sentence Structure         |
| 1.2 | Common Word Origins                    | 4.2 | Grammar                    |
| 1.3 | Word Meanings                          | 4.3 | Punctuation/Capitalization |
| 2.0 | Reading Comprehension                  | 4.4 | Spelling                   |
| 2.1 | Consumer Materials                     | 5.0 | Content and Organization   |
| 2.2 | Analyze Text                           | 5.1 | Organization/Focus         |
| 2.3 | Summary                                | 5.2 | Research/Technology        |
| 2.4 | Follow Technical Directions            | 5.3 | Editing                    |
| 2.5 | Use Information                        |     |                            |
| 2.6 | Patters of Text                        |     |                            |
| 3.0 | Text Analysis                          |     |                            |
| 3.1 | Forms of Poetry                        |     |                            |
| 3.2 | Plot                                   |     |                            |
| 3.3 | Motivation/Reactions                   |     |                            |
| 3.4 | Setting                                |     |                            |
| 3.5 | Recurring Themes                       |     |                            |
| 3.6 | Literary Elements                      |     |                            |

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Number of questions: 79

Number of pages: 22

Approximate testing time: 85 minutes

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(OVER)

**PRACTICE TEST IN READING (ENGLISH) - GRADE 8**  
**FORM A**

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

**A NEW HOME FOR MARCO**

1           The days raced by. Marco had been reflecting about the possibilities he might discover in his new home. At last he would have parents again. He was being adopted by an American family from Texas. He would have a mother, father, brother, and sister. He wanted to go to school.

2           The old days of being in limbo were stressful. He had no one to talk to and no one to care about his welfare. He wandered about with constant hunger and fear. The nights were long and brutally cold. The boxes were not much shelter against the rain. His parents had been killed in an accident when he was very young, and he had no one to live with. Chaotic life on the streets, in caves, or in the sewers was the lot of the abandoned children. Conditions were deplorable. He was always tired. He, like the others, was forced to beg or steal in order to survive. He begged for his meager existence and always thanked his donors. There was no way he could go to school and learn.

3           He often dreamed of a bountiful, new life which would allow him to be clean, warm, and full. Maybe he could get some new clothes and someday learn to read and write. It would be good to have toys, games, and friends, but the best thing would be having someone to love him and care about him. He missed his mother's touch and the times he went fishing with his dad. Now it seemed like a hundred years ago since the good times.

1. What is meant by the words from paragraph 5, "smile in his heart"?

- A. Marco was very happy.
- B. Marco's heart had a defect.
- C. Marco smiled at his heart.
- D. Marco's heart was pounding.

2. Choose the correct meaning of fuzzy as it is used in paragraph 6.

- A. Fluffy
- B. Unbelievable
- C. Blurred
- D. Furry

3. The author makes the reader sympathetic to Marco's life in South America by--

- A. telling about his reaction to his new family
- B. describing his present surroundings
- C. describing his days of hunger and fear there
- D. describing his college education

4. Which words are the writer's subtle hint of even better things to come for Marco?

- A. *Did he dare hope for more? Surely, there is no better life than this, he thought.*
- B. *Through constant research of foundations and agencies, he was able to change the future of countless individuals.*
- C. *As the years went by, Marco became an excellent student.*
- D. *But, the fears soon disappeared when the other students encircled him with greetings and smiles of acceptance.*