

SKILLS LIST and SAMPLE TEST ITEMS

FOR

PRACTICE TEST FOR READING, GRADE 9

(Test items developed for skills measured in TAKS03)

Skills

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|-----|--|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 1.0 | Understanding Text | 3.0 | Analyze Text |
| 1.1 | Vocabulary | 3.1 | Reading Comprehension
Techniques |
| 1.2 | Word Meanings | 3.2 | Historical Influences |
| 1.3 | Main Ideas/Supporting Details | 3.3 | Critically Evaluate Text |
| 1.4 | Summarize Text | 3.4 | Analyze/Interpret |
| 2.0 | Literary Elements/Techniques | | |
| 2.1 | Theme | | |
| 2.2 | Analyze Characters/Time/Point
of View | | |
| 2.3 | Basic Conflicts | | |
| 2.4 | Plot Development | | |
| 2.5 | Poetic Elements | | |
| 2.6 | Literary Forms/Terms | | |

Number of questions: 33

Number of pages: 10

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(OVER)

TAKS03 PRACTICE TEST IN READING - GRADE 9
FORM A

DIRECTIONS

Read the following passages and answer the questions that follow.

THE FIRST SONG

1 Many, many years ago, all the birds of the world sounded much different than they do today. Every kind of bird, from pelicans and sandpipers to bald eagles and blue jays, cawed in the same raw, squawking manner. Each feathery fowl would holler a rough, "Caw!" to say "Good morning!", "How are you?", or, perhaps, "There's a worm!" These noisy calls added to the racket of the rest of the animals: the vibrating roar of the lion, the sharp barks of the wolves, and, of course, the creaky croaking of the tiny tree toads. The typical day, whether at the shore or deep in the woods, was undoubtedly very noisy and often disturbing. This started to affect some of the quieter animals. Squirrels, spending so much time around the same trees as birds, found the constant cawing unnerving and would snap at each other and become too easily irritated. This was why they began to twitch and squeak as they moved around in a hurry. Rabbits felt like they weren't being heard anymore. They began stomping their hind legs to try to get a little attention. Unfortunately, it wasn't just the squirrels and the rabbits that were bothered. Many animals had a difficult time sleeping and even found it hard to be pleasant to others with the clamor of the average day. There was nothing to soothe a tired mind after a hectic afternoon or lift one's spirits at the break of dawn. There was nothing, that is, until one bright sunny morning.

1. In paragraph 1, what makes you realize that this is not a true story?

- A. The events occurred many, many years ago.
- B. The writer knows the thoughts and motives of the animals.
- C. The squirrels snapped at each other and were irritated.
- D. The animals clamored for revenge.

2. Which sentence best describes the situation at the beginning of the story?

- A. *Many, many years ago, all the birds of the world sounded much different than they do today.*
- B. *This started to affect some of the quieter animals.*
- C. *The typical day, whether at the shore or deep in the woods, was undoubtedly very noisy and often disturbing.*
- D. *This was why they began to twitch and squeak as they moved around in a hurry.*

3. The main characters in the story are--

- A. the wolves
- B. the tiny tree toads
- C. the rabbits
- D. the birds