

# *Skills Assessment Supplement*

**Focus on  
English-Language Arts Standards**



FORM A

**STUDENT MATERIALS**

# ***GRADE 4***



# READING

## Vocabulary and Concept Development

Read each sentence. Mark the antonym, the answer that has the opposite meaning of the underlined word.

1. Scientists use microscopes in their experiments.

- A. instrument to draw small objects
- B. instrument to see large objects
- C. instrument to see small objects
- D. instrument to draw large objects

2. The radio station will transmit emergency information.

- A. carry out
- B. send out
- C. bring in
- D. break up

3. We were not able to ski in the subzero temperatures.

- A. above zero
- B. below zero
- C. at zero
- D. not zero

Read each sentence. Choose the best meaning for the underlined *idiom*. Mark the correct answer.

4. This book about nuclear science is over my head.

- A. The book is too big.
- B. The book is on a high shelf.
- C. The book is hard to understand.
- D. The book is too easy.

5. Mother hit the roof when she saw the broken window.

- A. climbed a ladder
- B. became angry
- C. went outside
- D. threw a rock at the roof

6. What's the matter — cat got your tongue?

- A. Are you frightened?
- B. Is the cat biting you?
- C. Are you in a bad mood
- D. Why aren't you talking?



Read each sentence. Mark the answer that has the same meaning as the underlined word.

7. In our geography class, we learned about climate.

- A. study of man
- B. study of life
- C. study of the earth
- D. study of planets

8. You can find more information on tricycles in the index.

- A. two wheels
- B. two sides
- C. three sides
- D. three wheels

9. Scientists thought the volcano might erupt at any time.

- A. burn up
- B. heat up
- C. burst forth
- D. fall apart

Read each sentence. Mark the answer that correctly defines the underlined word.

10. Oil importation is of great concern to the president.

- A. to bring in
- B. to send out
- C. to sell
- D. to buy

11. International treaties help keep peace in the world.

- A. outside countries
- B. inside countries
- C. between countries
- D. against countries

12. Talking loudly in movie theaters is disrespectful behavior.

- A. full of respect
- B. having concern
- C. lack of kindness
- D. lack of respect



Use the sample thesaurus entry below to answer questions 13, 14, and 15.

<b>file / find</b>
<b>file</b> n. collection of papers, line of persons or things, container, collection of computer data, steel tool with a rough surface. v. to move in a line, to arrange in order, to smooth, to sharpen, to put on public record.

Mark the answer that has the same meaning as the underlined word.

13. The county clerk opened the file drawer and found the records.

- A. steel tool
- B. collection of computer data
- C. container
- D. line of persons or things

14. To repair the horse's hoof, the blacksmith used a file.

- A. steel tool
- B. record
- C. line of persons or things
- D. collection of papers

15. Soldiers will file by the statue.

- A. to sharpen
- B. to move in a line
- C. to put on public record
- D. to smooth

Read each sentence. Mark the answer that has the same meaning as the underlined word.

16. We moved to the back of the line.

- A. He will be right back.
- B. Don't back the car into the garage.
- C. There were no chairs in the back.
- D. I will not back your decision.

17. Trucks slowly climbed the steep grade.

- A. Your teacher will grade the tests tomorrow.
- B. The grade of the road made driving difficult.
- C. What grade will you be in next year?
- D. He purchased a poor grade of carpet.

18. Do you know the difference between right and wrong?

- A. Move the desk to the right of the door.
- B. The lines formed right angles.
- C. He will make the right decision for the team.
- D. You have the right to vote.



# READING COMPREHENSION

## Structural Features of Informational Materials

Read each passage. Mark the answer that correctly tells how the text is organized.

### Making Applesauce at Home

First, peel and quarter the apples. Then put them in boiling water and cook until the apples are soft. Drain, mash, and add brown sugar and cinnamon. Finally, cool before serving.

1.  A. chronological order  
 B. cause and effect  
 C. compare and contrast  
 D. fact and opinion

### The Kite Festival

The Sierra County Kite Festival was called off on Saturday morning. Because of large, dark, storm clouds in the area, officials believed the weather was unsafe for the participants. The festival will take place later in the month.

2.  A. chronological order  
 B. cause and effect  
 C. compare and contrast  
 D. fact and opinion

## Comprehension and Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text

Read the passage. Then read each question and mark the correct answer.

When water freezes, it expands and needs more space. You can prove this by filling a glass bottle with water, sealing it tightly, and placing the bottle in a freezer. Since the glass bottle cannot stretch, the frozen water will make it break.

3. **What information will probably be in the next paragraph?**
- A. information about frozen food  
 B. information about how other things react to freezing temperatures  
 C. information about making glass bottles  
 D. information about freezers
4. **Choose the best topic sentence for the passage.**
- A. A refrigerator will not freeze water.  
 B. Plastic bottles work best for experiments.  
 C. Water changes as the temperature changes.  
 D. Water does not freeze in metal containers.



Read each passage. Then read each question and mark the correct answer.

Passage 1                      **Gold**

The story of United States gold began before the California Gold Rush of 1849. Gold was mined in the Appalachian Mountains and in southern California. Because gold was found in rivers as flakes and nuggets, prospectors searched for gold in the sands and gravel of stream beds. The discovery of gold at Sutter’s Mill sparked the gold rush as thousands of people flocked to California to get rich.

Passage 2                      **Gold**

There isn’t anything more beautiful than a gold nugget. Gold production increased because gold mining was the best way to get rich. Prospecting was a slow process but discovering gold was worth the time and effort. The search for gold caused people from all over the world to come to America. Gold is still used as international money because it is the most valuable possession a person can own.

**5. How are Passage 1 and Passage 2 alike?**

- A. Both passages are written to persuade readers that gold is worth having.
- B. Both passages explain why gold miners were the richest people in California.
- C. Both passages tell about the importance of gold in United States history.
- D. Both passages explain why gold is more valuable than money.

**6. How are Passage 1 and Passage 2 different?**

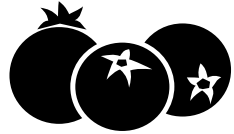
- A. Passage 1 is about gold mining in southern California and Passage 2 is about gold nuggets.
- B. Passage 1 is written to entertain readers and Passage 2 is written to inform readers.
- C. Passage 1 is about prospecting and Passage 2 is about money.
- D. Passage 1 is based on facts and Passage 2 is based on opinion.

**7. In Passage 1, the word *sparked* means**

- \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. burned
  - B. started
  - C. delayed
  - D. lighted



Read the information on the seed packet.  
Then read the question and mark the correct answer.



**TOMATOES**

**Nothing is better than the taste of vine-ripened tomatoes.**

Planting Instructions: Plant in full sun.  
Place seeds 2 inches apart in rows.  
Harvest tomatoes in late summer.

**Tomatoes are a good source of vitamin C.**

8. Which of these statements on the seed package is an *opinion*?
- A. Tomatoes are a good source of vitamin C.
  - B. Place seeds 2 inches apart.
  - C. Nothing is better than the taste of vine-ripened tomatoes.
  - D. Plant in full sun.

Read the passage. Then read each question and mark the correct answer.

The earliest people to arrive in North America probably crossed from Asia into Alaska. During the last Ice Age, glaciers created a bridge across the Bering Strait that connected the two land masses. It is likely that people, perhaps following game, crossed the strait on foot. As the weather turned colder, people traveled farther south in search of food and warmer climates. Unfortunately, since these early people left no written records, we must learn about them from the bones, tools, and weapons they left behind.

9. Which of these is an example of a *cause* in the paragraph?
- A. people and animals coming to Alaska
  - B. people and animals leaving Asia
  - C. weather turning colder
  - D. glaciers melting
10. Which of these is an example of an *effect* in the paragraph?
- A. people traveling south
  - B. glaciers creating a bridge
  - C. weather turning colder
  - D. people and animals walking on glaciers
11. This passage suggests that early people may have crossed the Bering strait to find \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. shelter
  - B. food
  - C. treasure
  - D. a warmer climate





Mark the answer that correctly completes each sentence about computers.

12. To write a research paper on Ellis Island in New York, you would first look for information on the \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. keyboard
- B. menu
- C. Internet
- D. hard copy

13. Computer commands to type your paper are found in the \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. hard drive
- B. disk drive
- C. cursor
- D. menu

14. The save command will \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. store your document for later use
- B. print your document
- C. display your document
- D. close your document

Read the instructions and then read each question. Mark the answer that correctly completes each sentence.

## Rightstart Keyboard



### GETTING STARTED

Important! To INSTALL Rightstart Pro 33 keyboard software:

1. Insert the Rightstart Pro 3.3 CD into your computer's CD-Rom drive.
2. Follow the Setup Professor instructions on your screen.
3. The Quick Start Guide will automatically open and tell you about the keyboard features.
4. To start Rightstart Pro 3.3 software:
  - A. Click **Start**
  - B. Pull down **Programs** menu
  - C. Click **Rightstart Keyboard**
  - D. Click **Key Settings**

To CONNECT your keyboard:

Use PS/2 Connection:

1. Shut down and turn off your computer.
2. Plug the keyboard cable PS/2 connector into your computer's PS/2 keyboard port.
3. Turn on your computer.

### GETTING HELP

Your Rightstart User's Guide is your complete product information source and is installed with your Rightstart Pro 3.3 Keyboard software.

15. To begin using your new keyboard, you first \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. turn off the computer
- B. connect the keyboard cable to the computer port
- C. install the keyboard software
- D. click on Rightstart User's Guide



16. Before you connect your keyboard to the computer, you \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. first turn off the computer
- B. plug the keyboard PS/2 cable connector into the PS/2 port
- C. click Rightstart Keyboard
- D. follow the Setup Professor's instructions

## Structural Features of Literature

Read each question. Mark the correct answer.

1. A fantasy is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. a story with characters and places that do not exist in the real world
- B. a story about a hero
- C. a story of how something in nature came to be the way it is
- D. a story that teaches a lesson

2. A fairy tale is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. a realistic story based on historical events
- B. written by a person about his or her own life
- C. a story with gods and goddesses
- D. a story in which a princess might be rescued

3. A fable is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. a true story
- B. a story that could happen in real life
- C. a short story that teaches a lesson about life
- D. a short story about history



## Narrative Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text

Read the passage. Then read each question and mark the correct answer.

Every year Charley turned up in Churchill, a small town in Canada. Charley was a 1,000 pound polar bear who lived in the snowy north and usually stayed away from people. He traveled widely, and his wanderings brought him to the streets of Churchill where he dumped over garbage cans and broke into homes searching for food. He meant no harm, but people were afraid of him and chased him out of town. Charley didn't mind; he knew the way back.

4. What is a main event in the plot of this story?

- A. Charley is a 1,000-pound polar bear.
- B. People were afraid of Charley.
- C. Charley wandered into Churchill.
- D. Charley meant no harm.

5. What caused Charley to visit Churchill?

- A. He was looking for food.
- B. Polar bears only look for food in towns.
- C. He wanted to scare the people in Churchill.
- D. He didn't mind the people chasing him away.



Read both passages. Then read the questions 6, 7, and 8 and mark the correct answer.

Passage 1

**“Ananse Gets the Mangoes”**  
A West African Story

In a faraway land lived a tricky spider named Ananse. Ananse loved to eat, and he loved mangoes best of all. But mangoes grow on trees, and Ananse refused to climb trees. Climbing trees was too much work. One day he saw Crow up in a mango tree, and Ananse had an idea. “Crow, you are so beautiful,” said Ananse. “You are the most beautiful bird in the forest.”

Crow was delighted to hear this. He called all his friends to come and hear Ananse’s words. All the crows gathered on the branches of the mango tree. The branches swayed with the weight of the crows. Mangoes fell to the ground — lots and lots of mangoes. Ananse ate and ate. When he was finally full, he turned to the crows and laughed. “Foolish crows,” he said. “You are vain as well as ugly.” As the angry crows flew down to get him, Ananse hurried into a hole in the tree to take a nap.

Passage 2

**“Rabbit Dances Out of Trouble”**  
A Native American Story

Rabbit was caught! A dozen wolves surrounded him. Rabbit thought fast. “Wait!” he said. “Before you eat me, look at this new dance I’ve learned.” The wolves watched as Rabbit danced. They had heard what a good dancer he was.

Rabbit told the wolves that it was a special dance that he would teach them. He sang a song and tapped his feet. The wolves tapped, too. Rabbit sang faster. The wolves spun to the song. Rabbit danced to the edge of the circle of wolves. “What good dancers you are,” he said as he slipped into the tall grass. Rabbit continued singing. The wolves danced.

Suddenly the song stopped. “Keep singing, Rabbit!” said the wolves. There was only silence. Laughing, Rabbit ran away through the tall grass.

6. **What characteristics do both Ananse and Rabbit have?**

- A. They are both truthful and fun-loving.
- B. They both like to dance and eat.
- C. They are both clever.
- D. They are both fast runners.

7. **How are these passages the same?**

- A. Both Ananse and Rabbit use tricks to get food.
- B. Both come from Native American cultures.
- C. Both tell how something in nature came to be.
- D. In the end, Ananse and Rabbit get what they want.



8. What could the crows and wolves learn from these stories?

- A. Never trust small animals.
- B. Small animals always outsmart big animals.
- C. Don't help someone unless you get something in return.
- D. Things are not always as they seem to be.

Read each sentence. Mark the answer that correctly completes the sentence.

9. The comparison of two different things using the words *like* or *as* is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. metaphor
- B. rhythm
- C. simile
- D. personification

10. Hyperbole is best defined as \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. using exaggeration to make a point
- B. using a brief story to make a point
- C. a comparison of two unlike things
- D. hints that suggest what will happen next in a story

Read the poetry selection below. Use the poem to answer questions 11 and 12. Mark the correct answer.

Eagle

Eagle leaps off her nest  
In search of food.  
The sun smiles on her.  
Eagle sees a river.  
Her sharp claws  
Close on a fish that wiggles like a worm.  
Her strong wings flap and like a glider,  
She lifts into the air.

11. In the poem, the eagle's wings are compared to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the air
- B. flaps
- C. a worm
- D. a glider

12. An example of personification is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. wiggles like a worm
- B. the sun smiles
- C. lifts into the air
- D. Eagle sees a river



# WRITING

## Research and Technology

Read this section of a bibliography. Then read each question and mark the correct answer.

Carp, John. Over the Rainbow. Chicago: Linton Publishers, 1979.

Carvel, Clyde. Weather or Not, Here I Come. Philadelphia: Purple Press, 1984.

Hyde, Jerry. Meteorology. Trenton, New Jersey: Changing Publications, 1985.

Muschel, Mary. "Changes in the Sky," American Almanac, January 1981, pp. 33-35.

1. What is the name of the article in American Almanac?
  - A. "Meteorology"
  - B. "Changes in the Sky"
  - C. "Over the Rainbow"
  - D. "Weather or Not, Here I Come"
2. Which book or article would have the most recent information about weather?
  - A. Meteorology
  - B. Over the Rainbow
  - C. Weather or Not, Here I Come
  - D. American Almanac
3. In what year was the book Over the Rainbow published?
  - A. 1979
  - B. 1981
  - C. 1984
  - D. 1985

Use the sample Table of Contents to answer questions 4, 5, 6, and 7.

CONTENTS	
Preface .....	5
Chapter 1 Arrival of the Pilgrims .....	10
Chapter 2 Early American Buildings.....	16
Chapter 3 Early Government.....	21
Chapter 4 Work and Clothing .....	29
Chapter 5 Family Life in the 1600s.....	38
Chapter 6 Life in a Pilgrim Village.....	43
Index .....	50

4. Chapter 2 probably contains information about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. how laws were made
  - B. what schools looked like
  - C. when the Pilgrims arrived
  - D. tools the Pilgrims used
5. You would find a list of all the topics covered in the book in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the index
  - B. Chapter 5
  - C. the preface
  - D. Chapter 1
6. If you wanted to find information about the materials early Americans used to make coats and shoes, you should look in Chapter \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. 2
  - B. 5
  - C. 4
  - D. 3



7. The preface is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. first page of a book
  - B. part that explains what is in the book
  - C. part of a book that has maps and tables
  - D. page that gives the year the copyright was issued

Mark the answer that correctly completes the sentence.

8. If you want to find information about a famous author, you should look in \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. a newspaper
  - B. an atlas
  - C. a glossary
  - D. an encyclopedia

Use this sample encyclopedia index to answer questions 9 and 10. Mark the correct answer.

**Cotton Gin** (see also Cotton farming) **2:581**  
farm equipment **4:359**  
inventions **7:101**  
manufacturing **10:274**

**Whitney, Eli 13:670**  
cotton gin **2:581**  
farm equipment **4:359**

9. What does the second number after an entry stand for?
- A. the number of pages in the article
  - B. the year the article was written
  - C. the page number
  - D. the volume number

10. In volume 13, you would find information about \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Eli Whitney
  - B. manufacturing
  - C. cotton gin
  - D. inventions



Mark the answer that correctly completes each sentence.

11. Information in a newspaper is divided into \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. headlines
- B. chapters
- C. subtitles
- D. sections

12. The part of a magazine that lists articles and pages is the \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. introduction
- B. contents page
- C. headlines
- D. lead

13. To find information in an almanac, look in the \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. table of contents
- B. glossary
- C. index
- D. bibliography

Read each sentence. Mark the answer that correctly completes each sentence.

14. A computer cursor \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. gives the computer a command
- B. is the “brain” of the computer
- C. makes a copy of a file
- D. is the pointer on the computer screen

15. Computer software is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the program that tells the computer how to do a certain task
- B. the list of files on a disk
- C. a video screen that displays information
- D. the “brain” of the computer

16. The hard drive of a computer is a \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. system of web links
- B. list of choices in a program
- C. stack of disks that read and store information
- D. style of type used by a printer





# WRITTEN AND ORAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS

## Sentence Structure

Read each sentence. Mark the answer that correctly identifies the sentence.

1. **My brother and his best friend went to the park and played on the swings.**
  - A. simple sentence
  - B. compound sentence
  
2. **The little girl in the white dress and black shoes is waiting for you.**
  - A. simple sentence
  - B. compound sentence
  
3. **The blue one is yours, and mine is red.**
  - A. simple sentence
  - B. compound sentence

Read the sentences in the box. Mark the answer that best combines the two sentences without changing their meaning.

**Running along the river, the deer ran into the bushes. The deer disappeared.**

4.  A. Running along the river, the deer was running into the bushes, and it disappeared.
- B. Along the river, the deer was running into the bushes, it disappeared.
- C. Running along the river, the deer ran into the bushes and disappeared.
- D. The deer it was running along the river, and it ran into the bushes and disappeared.

**That man is our teacher, Mr. Clark. He is standing by the door.**

5.  A. That man he is Mr. Clark standing by the door, our teacher.
- B. That man he is standing by the door and his name is Mr. Clark.
- C. Standing by the door he is Mr. Clark and our teacher.
- D. That man standing by the door is our teacher, Mr. Clark.



**The swim team practices at the park. They practice after school.**

6.  A. After school the swim team they practice at the park.
- B. The swim team practices at the park after school.
- C. After school and after they go to the park, the swim team practices.
- D. After practicing after school, the swim team goes to the park.

### Grammar

**Read each sentence. Mark the correct answer.**

7. **When Carlos \_\_\_\_\_ the ball to first base, Josh will catch it.**
- A. throw
- B. threw
- C. throws
- D. have thrown
8. **Art students \_\_\_\_\_ pictures for the contest.**
- A. drew
- B. draws
- C. have drawn
- D. have drawn

9. **The editors \_\_\_\_\_ a name for our school newspaper.**

- A. chose
- B. have chose
- C. choosed
- D. chooses

**Read each sentence. Mark the answer that correctly identifies the part of speech of the underlined word.**

10. **The oak trees beside the river are beautiful.**

- A. conjunction
- B. preposition
- C. verb
- D. adverb

11. **John is not feeling well, but he will not go to the doctor.**

- A. conjunction
- B. pronoun
- C. noun
- D. adjective

12. **Our voices echoed loudly in the cave.**

- A. preposition
- B. conjunction
- C. adjective



## Punctuation and Capitalization

Read each sentence. Mark the sentence that is written correctly.

13.  A. Michael's (antique clock) imported from France is on the desk.
- B. Michael's antique clock (imported from France) is on the desk.
- C. Michael's antique clock imported from France is (on the desk).
- D. Michael's antique (clock imported from France is) on the desk.
14.  A. Lisa's books are'nt in her desk.
- B. Lisas books aren't in her desk.
- C. Lisas' books arent in her desk.
- D. Lisa's books aren't in her desk.
15.  A. "How many of you" asked the coach are ready to go?
- B. "How many of you," asked the coach, "are ready to go?"
- C. "How many of you, asked the coach, are ready to go?"
- D. "How many of you asked the coach are ready to go?"

Read each sentence. Mark the sentence that is written correctly.

16.  A. Romeo and Juliet, a play by William Shakespeare, is a tragic love story.
- B. "Romeo and juliet," a play by William Shakespeare, is a tragic love story.
- C. "Romeo and Juliet," a play by William Shakespeare, is a tragic love story.
- D. Romeo and juliet, a play by William Shakespeare, is a tragic love story.
17.  A. Mother to Son is a twentieth-century poem by Langston Hughes.
- B. Mother to Son is a twentieth-century poem by Langston Hughes.
- C. "Mother to son" is a twentieth-century poem by Langston Hughes.
- D. "Mother to Son" is a twentieth-century poem by Langston Hughes.
18.  A. A popular song in the 1980s was "we are the world."
- B. A popular song in the 1980s was "We Are the World."
- C. A popular song in the 1980s was We Are the World.
- D. A popular song in the 1980s was "We are the world."



Read each sentence. Mark the sentence that is written correctly.

19.  A. The *New York Times* reported the United Nations Building was closed.
- B. The “New York Times” reported the united nations building was closed.
- C. The *New York Times* reported the united nations building was closed.
- D. The New York times reported the United Nations building was closed.
20.  A. Students asked “Are you reading the book, *The Good Earth*?”
- B. Students asked, “Are you reading the book, *The Good Earth*?”
- C. Students asked, “Are you reading the book, *the good earth*?”
- D. Students asked, Are you reading the book, *The Good Earth*?
21.  A. We read about Italy in our favorite magazine, reader’s digest.
- B. We read about Italy in our favorite magazine, Reader’s digest.
- C. We read about Italy in our favorite magazine, “Reader’s Digest.”
- D. We read about Italy in our favorite magazine, Reader’s Digest.

## Spelling

Read each sentence. Mark the answer that correctly divides the underlined word into syllables.

22. The tornado left a path of destruction.

- A. des–truct–ion
- B. de–struct–ion
- C. de–struc–tion
- D. des–truc–tion

23. Scientists found prehistoric tools.

- A. pre–hi–sto–ric
- B. pre–his–tor–ic
- C. pre–hi–stor–ic
- D. pre–hist–or–ic

24. His phonograph was broken.

- A. phon–o–graph
- B. pho–no–graph
- C. phon–og–raph
- D. ph–on–o–graph



**Read each sentence. Mark the answer that is spelled correctly.**

**25. Please do not \_\_\_\_\_ the speaker while he is talking.**

- A. interupt
- B. enterupt
- C. interrupt
- D. enterrupt

**26. Read the entire \_\_\_\_\_ before signing the document.**

- A. contract
- B. comtract
- C. contrackt
- D. comtrakt

**27. The man is a \_\_\_\_\_ member of our community.**

- A. respectable
- B. rispectible
- C. respectable
- D. rispectable

**28. The word is \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. misspelled
- B. mispelled
- C. misspeled
- D. mispeled

**29. The girl was \_\_\_\_\_ when she said she liked spinach.**

- A. untruthfull
- B. intruthful
- C. intruthfull
- D. untruthful

**Second Edition**

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