

Student Name: _____

Ohio Achievement Assessments



Reading Student Test Booklet

Large Print
Spring 2011

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Directions:

Today you will be taking the Ohio Grade 8 Reading Achievement Assessment. Three different types of questions appear on this test: multiple choice, short answer and extended response.

There are several important things to remember:

1. Read each reading passage carefully. You may look back at the reading passage as often as necessary. You may underline or mark parts of any passage in your Student Test Booklet.
2. Read each question carefully. Think about what is being asked. Look carefully at graphs or diagrams because they will help you understand the question. Then, choose or write the answer you think is best.
3. Use only a #2 pencil to answer questions on this test.
4. For multiple-choice questions, fill in the circle next to your answer choice. Mark only one answer for each question. If you change your answer, make sure you erase your old answer completely. Do not cross out or make any marks on the other choices.
5. For constructed-response questions, write your answer neatly, clearly and only in the space provided in your Answer Document. Answers written outside of the space provided will not be scored.

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6. Short-answer questions are worth two points. Extended-response questions are worth four points. Point values are printed near each question in your Student Test Booklet. The amount of space provided for your answers is the same for all two- and four-point questions.
7. If you do not know the answer to a question, skip it and go on to the next question. If you have time, go back to the questions you skipped and try to answer them before turning in your Student Test Booklet and Answer Document.
8. Check over your work when you are finished.

Size of Goodbye

Naomi Shihab Nye

(**NOTE:** *The year before Liyana Abboud was to enter high school, her parents announced to Liyana and her brother Rafik their plans for the family to move from St. Louis to her father's home country, Palestine. En route, the family visits New York City, a city that has special meaning to her father, Poppy.*)

- 1 They flew to New York in steamy June, left their seventeen suitcases and Liyana's violin stored at the airport, and spent one day lugging stuffed backpacks around to the Empire State Building and riding up to the inside of the Statue of Liberty's head. Poppy was retracing his steps. He wanted them to see exactly what he had seen when he first came to the United States.
- 2 "When Miss Liberty appeared through the fog holding up her hand in the harbor, I felt she was an old girlfriend welcoming me. I'd seen so many pictures of her."
- 3 "It's not just a hand, Poppy, it's a *torch*," Rafik said. His mother flashed him a quieting look. She wanted Poppy to keep telling stories.
- 4 Nineteen years after his first arrival, they ate giant pretzels from a cart on the street. The big grains of salt on the pretzel skin tasted delicious. They



bumped into disoriented families on summer vacations. They ate double scoops of Rocky Road ice cream.

- 5 “After this, you’ll call ice cream *booza*,” Poppy said. “And it won’t have marshmallows, either. I don’t think they’ve crossed the ocean yet.”
- 6 “They’d get wet,” said Rafik. Liyana rolled her eyes.
- 7 Liyana felt exhilarated by the skyscrapers. Their glittering lines lifted her out of her worry. She wished she could ride every sleek elevator up and down, punching buttons, seeing who got on and off. Some days you remembered the world was full of wonderful people you hadn’t met yet. She bought seven postcards with different pictures — the Brooklyn Bridge, Washington Square, the fish market.
- 8 By the time they returned to the airport at sundown for their night flight overseas, a storm was swirling somewhere over the dark Atlantic. They heard rumors about it from passengers at the gate. Ominous booms of distant thunder made Liyana feel edgy inside. *Yippity loosebugs*,¹ she thought. Their flight was running two hours late. Liyana kept her eyes on the other people waiting to fly. She wanted to see if they looked nervous.

¹**Yippity loosebugs**: a phrase expressing nervousness



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- 9 But they only looked sleepy. A yawning lady with a flowered scarf tied around her chin lugged a food basket crammed with Jell-O boxes, paper napkins, and coffee filters. Didn't they have those things in the Middle East? Another lady rolled up her husband's raincoat and made her little children lie down on the floor with their heads on it. No one looked nervous at all.
- 10 When Rafik unzipped his backpack and pulled out a giant sack of Cornnuts, Liyana went to sit at the other side of the gate. She couldn't stand to sit next to somebody crunching. She scribbled in her notebook. *One Indian lady in a purple sari² crying. The size of good-bye.*

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²sari: a garment worn by Hindu women



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Use the passage to answer questions 1 – 9.

1. Based on information in the passage, why does Poppy want his family to help him in “retracing his steps” in New York City?
 - A. He wants his family to sample food that is unavailable in Palestine.
 - B. He wants his family to experience New York City before leaving for Palestine.
 - C. He wants to give the family something to do while waiting for their delayed flight.
 - D. He wants to take his family to meet relatives in New York City before leaving for Palestine.

2. In what way can Rafik be described as a static character?
 - A. His character has a minor part.
 - B. His character is quiet and respectful.
 - C. His character is unchanged by the end.
 - D. His character is related to the main character.



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3. Explain how Liyana feels about being in New York. Support your explanation with a detail from the passage.

Then, explain how Poppy feels and support your explanation with another detail from the passage.

Write your answer in the **Answer Document**.
(4 points)



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4. Which statement explains Liyana's reactions to her brother Rafik?
- A. She finds him amusing.
 - B. She thinks he is annoying.
 - C. She is sympathetic toward him.
 - D. She suspects he is as nervous as she is.
5. "Liyana felt **exhilarated** by the skyscrapers. Their glittering lines lifted her out of her worry. She wished she could ride every sleek elevator up and down, punching buttons, seeing who got on and off." (Paragraph 7)

Which phrase from the sentences above helps the reader determine the meaning of **exhilarated**?

- A. "glittering lines"
- B. "lifted her out of her worry"
- C. "wished she could ride"
- D. "seeing who got on and off"



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6. Which statement reflects the theme of this passage?
- A. Facing new experiences can create mixed emotions.
 - B. Situations often seem worse before they improve.
 - C. Hard times draw families closer together.
 - D. Risk-taking is essential to growth.
7. In paragraph 7, what effect does the setting have on Liyana?
- A. The chaos and excitement of the big city make her nervous.
 - B. The difference between New York and St. Louis makes her miss her home.
 - C. The buildings and lights of the city distract her from her concern about the move.
 - D. The welcomed experiences in New York reinforce her eagerness to move to Palestine.

8. “Liyana felt exhilarated by the skyscrapers. Their glittering lines lifted her out of her worry. She wished she could ride every sleek elevator up and down, punching buttons, seeing who got on and off.” (Paragraph 7)

What do the references to height in these lines symbolize?

- A. Liyana’s interest in making new friends
 - B. Liyana’s excitement at moving to a different country
 - C. Liyana’s ability to overcome a fear of living in the city
 - D. Liyana’s fascination with new and interesting aspects of life
9. “She scribbled in her notebook. *One Indian lady in a purple sari crying.*” (Paragraph 10)

What does the image in Liyana’s notebook represent?

- A. her day in the city
- B. a scene of life in her new country
- C. her sadness upon leaving her home
- D. the comfort she feels with others around her



The Woods of Minnesota

Sarah Safranski



- 1 Many smells bring back memories for me, but the smell of fish, oddly enough, conjures up some of the most pleasurable. You can find this nose-crinkling smell radiating from lakes and rivers, particularly after it rains. It is also notoriously known to flow from fish houses. I have always encountered it when my family visits Fox Lake Resort in Minnesota, our annual vacation spot.



- 2 The car trip is a grueling twelve hours long, full of petty arguments and stinky salami sandwiches. We travel in the heat of summer and roll along endless stretches of Midwestern highway lined with fields of corn and beans. Each year we stop at the same rest areas, sleep in the same motel, drive the same route, and, of course, stay at the same resort.
- 3 The resort, located hours away from civilization, has become our second home and the owners our extended family members. The rustic log cabins are no longer as grand as they used to be. The once bright red exterior paint is beginning to crackle and chip from the bitter cold winters and the radiating heat of summer. The wooden floors, now dingy from years of use, creak under even the smallest child's weight. The furniture is a mixture of mismatched antiques and Salvation Army finds. And the walls are decorated with two-page spreads that were once bound into *National Geographic* magazine. The photograph tear outs are mounted onto scraps of dingy brown cardboard and, despite their primitiveness, hung on the cabin walls as if they were priceless Monets. The bedrooms contain only what is necessary: a bed and a dresser. If you are lucky, there may even be a pair of curtains to blanket your window,



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but this is usually not the case. The mattresses are thin and lumpy; however, the itchy wool blankets keep you warm at night when the temperature plummets. The rusty faucets in the kitchen struggle to push out the hard water that is locked inside them. And the smell of fish radiates from the icebox but is whisked away by a crisp, gentle breeze that comes off the lake and through the tiny kitchen window.

- 4 The lake remains a constant reminder of Mother Nature's beauty. The bright afternoon sun harshly reflects off the clear water. The lily pads, which are slowly beginning to cover the water, serve as diving boards for the frogs, and the driftwood becomes their rafts. Loons carelessly glide through the air in large groups, and a solemn bald eagle majestically surveys the land for its next meal. Grand trees of all shapes and sizes envelop the lake, and the vast sky creates a dome above it. At nightfall, fireflies twinkle their bright lights dangerously close to the surface of the water, outshone only by the numerous stars. Mosquitoes gently hum a song while grasshoppers sing a chorus of melodies. Animals of all kinds come out to mingle and find something to eat, but they are rarely seen by human eyes. And within the mysterious waters of Fox Lake, the fish begin their nightly search for food.

- 5 As a little girl, I tagged along in the cold metal boat, fishing with my dad every night. I would often cover my nose to avoid the smell of fish. Meanwhile, we would search for the perfect spot to cast. Perhaps the weed bed, the lily pads, the sunken island, or the Behemoth's Lair. The Behemoth, king of all fish, has been hooked several times but never caught. Every cast became another chance for me to hook the Behemoth, a chance to go down in history. I never even came close. But I was delighted to reel in my dad's catches and pretend I had caught them all on my own.
- 6 There was something exciting about reeling in a fish when I was little. The cast, the bite, the catch, all seemed like a grand accomplishment. The mysterious, glassy-eyed creatures rose silently out of the water, sometimes struggling, sometimes still, but always gasping for air. The fish seemed to know their fate but held on tightly to the hope that they might be thrown back into the frigid water.
- 7 During the long winter months, I often find myself yearning to go back to the Fox Lake Resort, to be free of the stresses of everyday life and able to relax. I search for places that remind me of our vacation spot, but all of them fall short. However,



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the smell of fish quickly whisks me back to the woods of Minnesota, where the air is always clean and the atmosphere always peaceful.

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Photograph by Layne Kennedy/Corbis, © September 1993.

Use the passage to answer questions 10 – 18.

10. Which word describes the narrator's life today?

- A. hectic
- B. hopeless
- C. lonely
- D. monotonous

11. "Many smells bring back memories for me, but the smell of fish, oddly enough, **conjures up** some of the most pleasurable." (Paragraph 1)

What word means the same as the phrase **conjures up** as it is used in the sentence above?

- A. compliments
- B. erases
- C. justifies
- D. recalls

12. Describe the mood created by the author in paragraph 2.

Then, explain how the author creates this mood. Use two details from the passage to support your explanation.

Write your answer in the **Answer Document**.
(4 points)

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13. Which statement summarizes paragraph 3?
- A. The bedrooms are cold and uncomfortable.
 - B. The cabin is sparse and poorly maintained.
 - C. Driving to the same resort every year is painfully boring.
 - D. The family endures many hardships when they reach the resort.
14. What conflict is suggested by the narrator in the passage?
- A. The narrator struggles to catch a fish while spending time with her dad.
 - B. The narrator observes the beautiful scenery during an unpleasant car ride with her family.
 - C. The narrator attempts to enjoy the trip with her family while staying at an uncomfortable cabin.
 - D. The narrator fondly remembers her childhood while regretting that she cannot find a similar place to vacation.

15. "I search for places that remind me of our vacation spot, but all of them fall short."
(Paragraph 7)

Why does the author use the idiom "fall short" in the sentence above?

- A. to show that she needs a resort that is as large as Fox Lake Resort
 - B. to show that not all resorts are as suitable for fishing as Fox Lake Resort
 - C. to show that the air at other resorts is not as clean as at Fox Lake Resort
 - D. to show that most places do not hold the same memories as Fox Lake Resort
16. What is it about the interaction between the father and the narrator that is important to the passage?
- A. The father inspires the narrator to become a great fisher.
 - B. The father drives the narrator and her family to the resort.
 - C. The father provides the narrator with a specific fond memory.
 - D. The father motivates the narrator to try to become a part of history.

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17. “I search for places that remind me of our vacation spot, but all of them fall short.”
(Paragraph 7)

Based on the passage, explain two qualities of Fox Lake Resort that the narrator is searching for in a new resort. Use information from the passage in your answer.

Write your answer in the **Answer Document**.
(2 points)

18. How would the passage be different if it had been written from the limited third-person point of view of the father?
- A. The author would include fewer details about the setting of Fox Lake Resort.
 - B. The author would describe narrative elements of the story in greater detail.
 - C. The reader would learn more about how the father felt about the resort.
 - D. The reader would see more dialogue between the father and the daughter.

Items 19–32 have not been slated for public release in 2011.

On the Spring 2011 Grade 8 Reading Achievement Assessment, items 33–38 are field-test items, which are not released.

Items 39–44 have not been slated for public release in 2011.

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