5 Nebraska NSCAS Growth

English Language Arts

Grade 3

Practice Tests



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Small Steps, Big Gains!

Small Steps, Big Gains!

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Reza Nazari

Grade 3 · Nebraska · NSCAS Growth

5 Nebraska Grade 3 English Language Arts (ELA) Practice Tests

Full-Length Practice for NSCAS Growth Preparation and Academic Confidence

Reza Nazari

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Grade 3 English

English Language

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Questions: Varies by section **Duration:** No time limit

Important Test Information

These practice items follow the style of third-grade English Language assessments. Formats can vary by section: you may see reading passages and graphics, different kinds of questions, or other tasks—follow the instructions on each page.

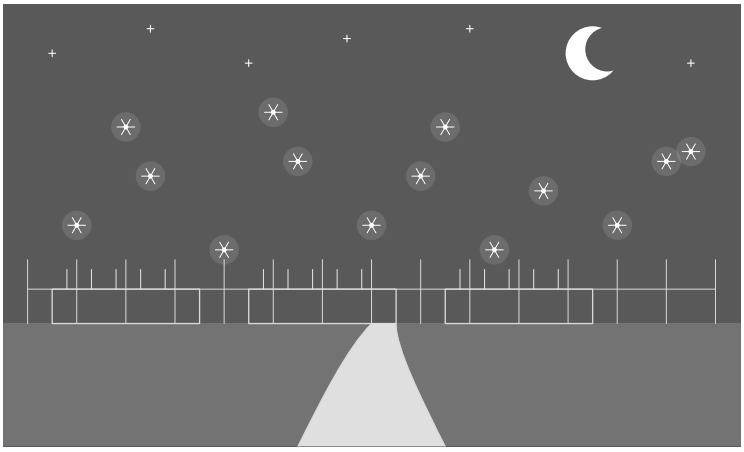
Test-Taking Tips:

- Read each question and every answer choice before you decide.
- Look back at the reading material or graphic when a question is based on them.
- Work carefully—there is no time limit on these practice tests, so use the time you need.

Remember: Take your time, stay calm, and do your best. You've prepared well for this practice—you've got this!

Read the passage below. Then answer questions 1–9.

The Night Garden Helpers



Bright fireflies drift above a moonlit garden filled with flowers, grass, and quiet summer light.

1 On warm summer evenings, many gardens come alive in a surprising way. As the sun slips down and the sky grows dark, tiny flashes of light begin to blink above the grass. These little lights come from insects called fireflies.

2 A firefly is a type of beetle. It makes light in the lower part of its body. This light is not hot like a light bulb. Instead, it is a cool glow that helps the insect send signals in the dark.

3 Fireflies flash for different reasons. Some flash to warn hungry animals not to eat them. Others flash to help them find other fireflies. Each kind of firefly has its own blinking pattern, almost like a secret code in the night.

4 Fireflies are helpful to gardens. When they are young, they live in the soil and eat tiny pests such as slugs and worms that can damage plants. Because of this, many gardeners are glad to see fireflies nearby.

5 Fireflies need safe places to live. Bright outdoor lights can make it hard for them to see each other's signals. Chemicals sprayed on lawns can also harm them. People can help by turning off extra lights and keeping parts of a yard wild and shady.

6 The next time you see small lights blinking over the grass, stop and watch for a moment. You may be looking at one of nature's quietest helpers, glowing softly in the summer night.

Read this dictionary entry.

pattern *noun*

1. a design made by repeating lines, shapes, or colors
2. something that happens in the same way again and again
3. a loud crashing sound
4. a tool used for digging in soil

1) Which meaning of the word *pattern* is used in paragraph 3?

(A) Definition 1
(B) Definition 3
(C) Definition 4
(D) Definition 2

Use the passage "The Night Garden Helpers" to answer this question.



16) What does the word *remains* mean in line 10?

(A) Runs away quickly
(B) Stays the same
(C) Becomes very cold
(D) Breaks into pieces

Use the poem "Inside a Book" to answer this question.

17) What does the phrase "the world grows wide" in line 11 most likely mean?

(A) The book becomes too heavy to carry
(B) The room becomes larger each time a page turns
(C) Reading makes the speaker imagine many new places and ideas
(D) The desk stretches across the whole house

Use the poem "Inside a Book" to answer this question.

18) Which sentence best describes what the speaker thinks about reading?

(A) Reading opens new worlds in the mind, and even after the book is closed, part of the speaker still feels tied to the story
(B) The desk stretches wider every time the speaker turns a page
(C) Reading is boring and never changes how the speaker feels about the room
(D) Books only matter if they are loud enough to shake the walls

Use both "The Library Map" and "Inside a Book" to answer this question.

19) What do the story and the poem have in common?

(A) Both take place during a thunderstorm at night
(B) Both are mainly about losing something valuable
(C) Both explain how to organize a library shelf
(D) Both show books as a doorway to adventure and discovery



Reading books? Scan for facts.
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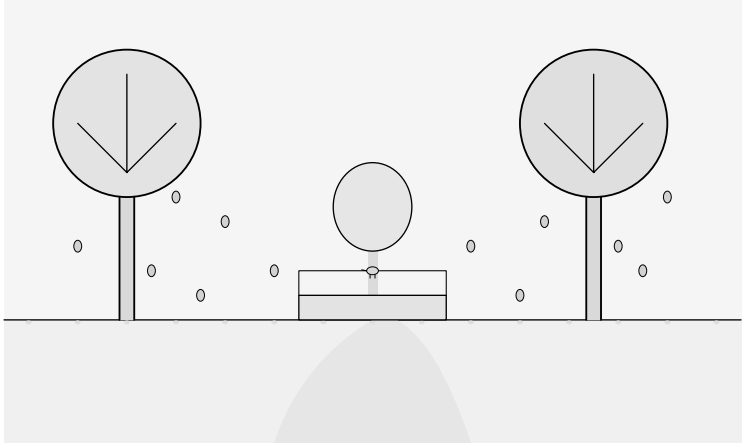
Use both "The Library Map" and "Inside a Book" to answer this question.

20) How are the endings of the story and the poem most alike?

(A) Both endings describe a contest with a prize
(B) Both endings show that reading leaves a lasting feeling with the reader
(C) Both endings reveal that the main character is angry
(D) Both endings happen on a crowded bus

Read the passage below. Then answer questions 21–29.

Why Leaves Change Color



Autumn trees glow with red, gold, and orange leaves as a few bright leaves drift gently to the ground.

1 In spring and summer, many trees are covered with green leaves. These leaves use sunlight, water, and air to help make food for the tree. A green substance inside the leaves, called chlorophyll, does much of this work.

2 When autumn comes, the days grow shorter. Trees begin to get ready for winter. They stop making as much chlorophyll, so the strong green color starts to fade.

3 As the green fades, other colors that were already in the leaf become easier to see. Some leaves turn yellow or orange. Others turn deep red or even purple. Different kinds of trees can produce different autumn colors.

4 Soon, many trees grow a thin layer where each leaf stem joins the branch. This layer slowly blocks water from reaching the leaf. After a while, the leaf dries out, breaks free, and falls to the ground.

5 Fallen leaves are important too. As they break down, they add nutrients to the soil. These nutrients help plants grow. So even after leaves fall, they continue to be part of nature's cycle.

6 The next time you see bright autumn leaves, remember that their colors are not just beautiful. They are also signs that trees are preparing for a new season.

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21) What is the central idea of this article?

(A) Autumn begins when all flowers stop growing.
(B) Only red leaves help trees make food.
(C) All leaves stay green until the moment they fall.
(D) Leaves change color in autumn because trees are preparing for winter.

Use the passage "Why Leaves Change Color" to answer this question.



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