# 5 Pennsylvania PSSA

# English Language Arts

## Grade 3

## Practice Tests



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Small Steps, Big Gains!

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Grade 3 · Pennsylvania · PSSA

# 5 Pennsylvania Grade 3 English Language Arts (ELA) Practice Tests

Full-Length Practice for PSSA 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!

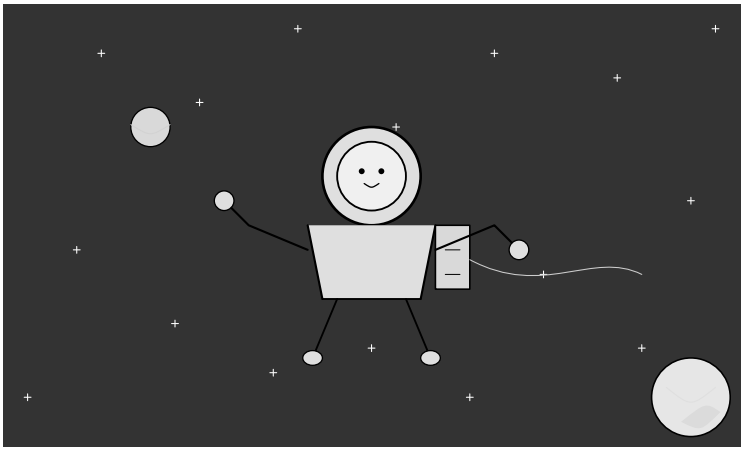




Neat quotes?
Spot the mood.

Scan Me

**Read the passage and the illustration below. Then answer questions 1–8.**



*A young astronaut floats in space, exploring our solar system*

## Our Amazing Solar System

**1** Look up on a clear night and you can see dozens of stars—but only one yellow dot that moves slowly across the sky: a planet in our own solar system. Our solar system is made up of the Sun, eight planets, dozens of moons, millions of asteroids, and countless comets, all held together by the invisible force of gravity. It is so enormous that even traveling at the speed of light, it would take more than four hours to cross from one side to the other.

### The Sun: Our Star

**2** The Sun sits at the center of our solar system and is, by far, its largest member. It makes up about 99.8 percent of all the mass in the solar system. The Sun is a giant ball of hot gas that produces energy through a process called *nuclear fusion*—hydrogen atoms collide and merge, releasing enormous amounts of light and heat. Without the Sun's energy, life on Earth could not exist.

### The Eight Planets

**3** Eight planets orbit the Sun in our solar system, divided into two groups. The four *inner planets*—Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars—are rocky and relatively small. The four *outer planets*—Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune—are much larger and made mostly of gas and ice. Jupiter is so enormous that more than 1,300 Earths could fit inside it.

**4** Each planet is unique. Mercury is the smallest and fastest, completing its orbit around the Sun in just 88 Earth days. Venus is the hottest, with surface temperatures hot enough to melt lead. Mars has the tallest known volcano in the solar system—Olympus Mons—which rises nearly three times higher than Mount Everest. Saturn's rings are made of billions of pieces of ice and rock, ranging in size from a grain of sand to a house.

### Beyond the Planets

**5** Beyond the eight planets lies the Kuiper Belt, a region full of icy objects including the dwarf planet Pluto. Farther still is the Oort Cloud, a distant shell of icy debris that may be where long-period comets originate. When comets travel toward the Sun, the Sun's heat melts some of their ice, creating the glowing tail that makes them so dramatic and beautiful in the night sky.

**6** Scientists have discovered thousands of planets orbiting other stars. Some of these *exoplanets* may have conditions suitable for life. Missions like the James Webb Space Telescope are studying these distant worlds. The more we learn about our own solar system, the better we understand our place in the vast, breathtaking universe beyond.

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Read this dictionary entry.





Spring graphs? Scan for fun.

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*Use the story "Grandma Rosa's Kitchen" to answer this question.*

**13)** How does paragraph 9 contribute to the **resolution** of the story?

(A) It shows that Grandma Rosa is disappointed in Mia's decorating.
(B) It provides the key idea that explains why Mia feels proud at the end of the story, even though the cake is imperfect.
(C) It introduces a new problem when Mia realizes the cake is not perfect.
(D) It explains why the family decides not to eat the birthday cake.

*Use the story "Grandma Rosa's Kitchen" to answer this question.*

**14)** In paragraph 5, Mia compares stirring the batter to "raking leaves into a perfect pile." What does this comparison reveal about Mia?

(A) Mia does not enjoy baking and would rather be outside raking leaves.
(B) Mia is already an expert baker because she has done this many times before.
(C) Mia thinks that baking and raking are exactly the same activity.
(D) Mia finds comfort in calm, careful tasks that have a satisfying, rhythmic quality.

**Read the poem. Then answer questions 15–16.**


Geometry? Scan for QR. Scan Me

## The Recipe

To make a memory you will keep,
begin with one warm afternoon,
a grandmother's hands, flour-dusted,
and a wooden spoon.

Add two cups of paying attention
to the stories that she shares,
a pinch of patience while you wait
for something rising in the air.

Fold in the laughter, slow and steady,
mix in all the things she knows—
pour it into something worthy,
then just watch the magic grow.

The oven timer dings and sings
and out comes something gold and round—
not just a cake, but all the love
in one small kitchen to be found.

So when you're grown and far away
and reach for something sweet,
you'll taste that afternoon again—
a memory complete.

**15)** What does the phrase *"something rising in the air"* most likely mean in line 8 of the poem?

(A) both the bread dough rising and the growing excitement and anticipation of waiting for the baked treat
(B) flour dust floating in sunlight by the window
(C) smoke from the oven that fills the kitchen
(D) a balloon that floats up toward the ceiling of the kitchen

*Use the poem "The Recipe" to answer this question.*

**16)** The poet writes about adding "two cups of paying attention" and "a pinch of patience" in lines 5–7. Why does the poet most likely use **recipe language** this way?

(A) To suggest that the poem is actually a real cake recipe that should be followed step by step
(B) To warn readers that too much patience will ruin a baked treat
(C) To playfully extend the recipe metaphor to show that creating a lasting memory requires the same careful ingredients as baking
(D) To show that attention and patience are things that can be measured in a kitchen

*Use the poem "The Recipe" to answer this question.*


Big rows? Scan for fun. Scan Me