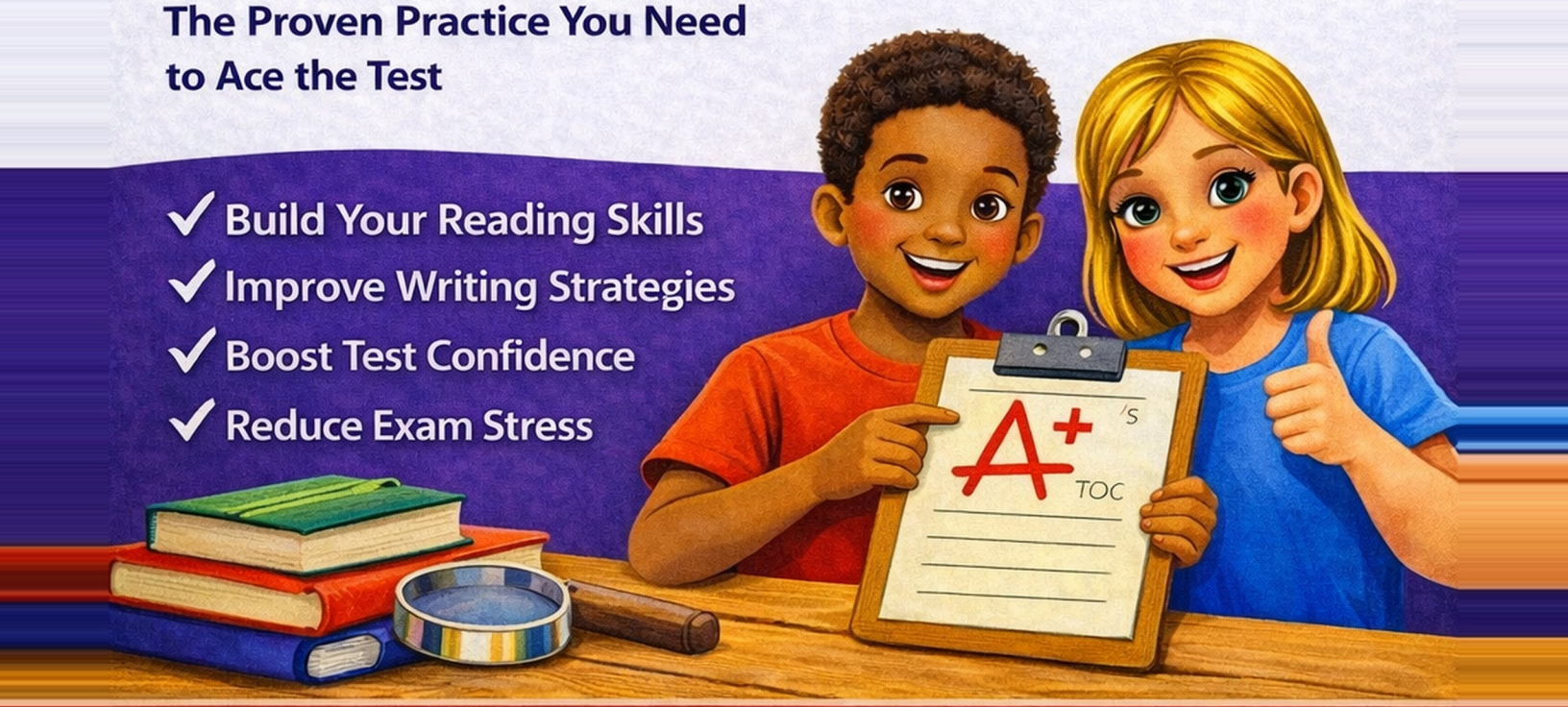
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Full-Length Practice for M-STEP Preparation and Academic Confidence

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Grade 4 English

English Language

1

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

Important Test Information

These practice items follow the style of fourth-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!

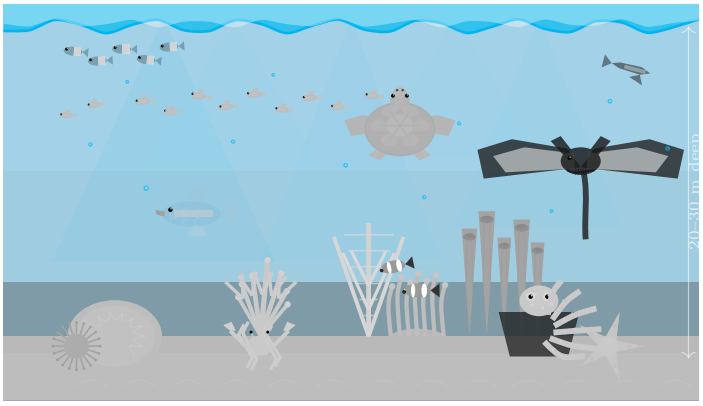


Shy owls? Hug the book.

Scan Me

Read the passage below. Then answer questions 1–8.

City Beneath the Waves: The Great Barrier Reef



1 Stretching more than 1,400 miles along the northeastern coast of Australia, the Great Barrier Reef is the largest living structure on Earth. It is so large that it can be seen from outer space. Yet despite its vast size, the entire reef is built by one of the ocean's smallest creatures: the coral polyp.

2 A coral polyp is a tiny animal—many are smaller than a grain of rice—that builds a hard limestone skeleton around its soft body. When polyps die, their skeletons remain. New polyps grow on top of old ones, and over thousands of years, these accumulated skeletons build the massive, rocky formations we call coral reefs. Scientists estimate that the Great Barrier Reef has been growing in its current location for about 20,000 years.

3 Corals depend on a special partnership with tiny algae called *zooxanthellae* (zoh-oh-ZAN-thuh-lee) that live inside their tissues. The algae use sunlight to photosynthesize, producing nutrients that feed the coral and give it its vivid color. In return, the coral provides shelter and the carbon dioxide the algae need to grow. This partnership is delicate: when ocean temperatures rise too high, corals expel their algae, turning ghostly white—a process called *coral bleaching*. Without the algae's nutrients, the coral can starve and die.

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Birds? Scan to laugh.

4 The reef supports an extraordinary variety of life. More than 1,500 species of fish make their home in and around the reef, along with 4,000 types of mollusk, six species of sea turtle, thirty species of whale and dolphin, and over 200 species of bird. The reef also supports the world's largest population of dugongs—gentle marine mammals sometimes called "sea cows."

5 Beyond its ecological value, the Great Barrier Reef has enormous economic importance. It generates approximately six billion Australian dollars per year in tourism, fishing, and research revenue. More than two million people visit it annually to snorkel, dive, and study its ecosystems.

6 Despite its size and importance, the reef is in danger. Rising ocean temperatures due to climate change have caused multiple large-scale bleaching events. Crown-of-thorns starfish—a natural predator of coral—have surged in population and consumed large areas of reef. Pollution from farm runoff carries sediment and excess nutrients into the water, blocking sunlight and promoting the growth of algae that smother coral.

7 Scientists and governments have launched major efforts to protect the reef. Australia's Great Barrier Reef Marine Park covers nearly 133,000 square miles and restricts activities that could damage the ecosystem. Researchers are experimenting with heat-resistant coral strains and working to control crown-of-thorns starfish populations. Some scientists are also exploring the possibility of cooling water in localized areas around vulnerable reef sections.

8 The Great Barrier Reef is not merely a scenic attraction—it is a critical part of the ocean's health and a living record of billions of individual animals, each no larger than a fingertip, building something immense together.



Review claims? Scan for codes.

Scan Me

in ways I hadn't been before
I lit the match, I opened the door.

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14) In the first stanza, what does the speaker mean by *"locked a small flame deep within"?*

(A) The speaker placed a burning match inside the paper lantern so it would float up.
(B) The speaker kept a secret burning inside them that they have never shared with anyone.
(C) The speaker's deepest feelings and fears were sealed inside the lantern with the candle that lifts it.
(D) The paper lantern was too fragile and caught fire accidentally.

Use the poem "Paper and Fire" to answer this question.

15) In the third stanza, the speaker says *"a lantern is just paper, light, / but it makes the fear less heavy."* What does this mean?

(A) The physical weight of a paper lantern is what helps people feel less afraid.
(B) Although a lantern is a simple object, the act of releasing it eases the weight of unspoken fear by allowing it to be expressed.
(C) Lanterns are made from lightweight materials, so they can float up easily.
(D) Paper lanterns are a more modern replacement for heavier objects used in old ceremonies.

Use both "Ten Thousand Lanterns" and "Paper and Fire" to answer this question.

Lancy smells? Scan for help. Scan Me

16) What idea do the story and the poem share?

(A) Lanterns must be made from special materials to carry wishes properly.
(B) Wishes made on lanterns always come true if they are sincere enough.
(C) Lantern festivals are important traditions that must be protected from being forgotten.
(D) Expressing difficult emotions honestly, even in the face of uncertainty, can make us feel less burdened by them.

Use the story "Ten Thousand Lanterns" to answer this question.

17) Which **TWO** details from the story best support the idea that this Lantern Festival is more emotionally significant to Mei than any before? Select **TWO** correct answers.

(A) Mei is twelve this year, and her grandmother has grown quiet and slow in a way that worries Mei.
(B) The river below holds "upside-down doubles" of the lanterns.
(C) The riverbank is crowded with people from every part of town.
(D) Mei tells her grandmother what she wished for, even though she thinks her grandmother may not have heard.
(E) Festival drums echo from somewhere up the hill.

Use the story "Ten Thousand Lanterns" to answer this question.

18) How does the author use sensory details in paragraph 6 to help the reader experience Mei's feelings?

(A) The author uses sound words to describe the festival drums and make the moment feel exciting.

(B) The author uses the detail of Mei tightening her grip before letting go to show both her hesitation and her courage in releasing the lantern—and what it carries.

(C) The author describes the color of the lanterns so the reader can imagine the festival.

(D) The author uses smell and taste details to show how Mei feels connected to her memories.

Use the story "Ten Thousand Lanterns" to answer this question.

19) Which answer best explains how Mei's grandmother's words in paragraph 5 and paragraph 10 help Mei find the courage to express her wish?

(A) They convince Mei that lantern wishes always come true if spoken quietly.

(B) They remind Mei to keep her worry hidden until the festival ends.

(C) They show Mei that courage means pretending not to be afraid.

(D) They teach Mei that courage is saying a hard wish aloud even without certainty, which helps her finally speak her fear.



Big hints? Raise the bar.

Scan Me