7 Full-Length Maryland MCAP

English Language Arts (ELA) Practice Tests

A Complete Guide to Building Mastery and Excelling on the English Test

Grade 5



Practice Master Achieve

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Grade 5 · Maryland · MCAP

7 Maryland Grade 5
English Language Arts (ELA)
Practice Tests

Full-Length Practice for MCAP Preparation
and Academic Confidence

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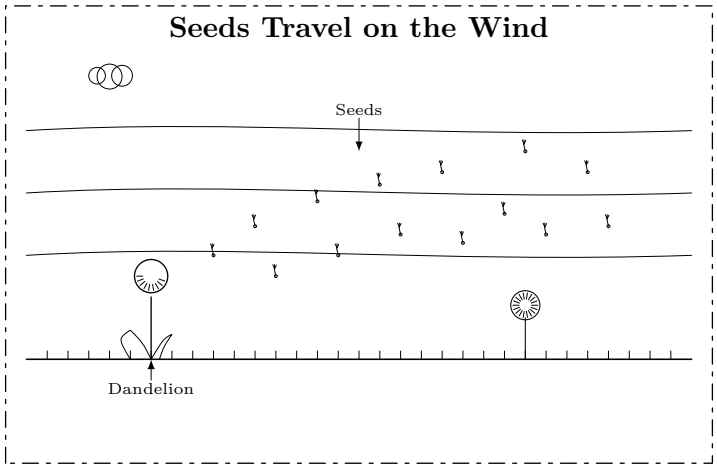
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Read the passage below. Then answer questions 1–10.

How a Small Seed Travels



A dandelion releases tiny seeds into the air, where the wind can carry them to new places.

1 A seed may look small and still, but many seeds are built for travel. They do not have legs, wheels, or wings like birds, yet they can move from one place to another in clever ways.

2 Some seeds travel on the wind. Dandelion seeds are light and fluffy, so even a gentle breeze can lift them into the air. Maple seeds spin like tiny helicopters as they fall, which helps them drift farther from the tree.

3 Other seeds travel by water. A coconut can float across waves until it reaches a beach where it can grow. Seeds from plants near rivers may also wash downstream and settle in muddy soil.

4 Animals help move seeds too. Some seeds stick to fur or feathers and ride along until they drop off. Other animals eat fruit and later leave the seeds in a new place.



Ballad leads? Scan for pace.
Scan Me

5 Traveling helps plants survive. If all the seeds from one plant fell in the same small spot, the young plants would compete for space, sunlight, and water. When seeds spread out, more of them have a chance to grow strong.

Read this dictionary entry.

settle *verb*

1. to come to rest in a place
2. to laugh loudly at a joke
3. to turn bright red
4. to jump high in the air

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

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

Use the passage "How a Small Seed Travels" to answer this question.

2) Which sentence is an **opinion**?

(A) Seeds are the most amazing travelers in nature.
(B) Maple seeds can spin as they fall.
(C) Some seeds stick to animal fur.
(D) Coconuts can float across water.

Use the passage "How a Small Seed Travels" to answer this question.

3) How does the author organize paragraphs 2–4?

(A) By describing different ways seeds can travel
(B) By telling the life story of one tree
(C) By comparing seeds with rocks
(D) By listing only seeds that grow near water

Use the passage "How a Small Seed Travels" to answer this question.

4) What is the central idea of this article?

(A) Mud is the best place for every plant to grow
(B) All seeds are carried only by birds
(C) Coconut trees grow faster than maple trees
(D) Seeds travel in several ways, and spreading out helps plants survive

Use the passage "How a Small Seed Travels" to answer this question.

5) Which detail best supports the idea that some seeds are built to travel on wind?

(A) Animals may eat fruit.
(B) A coconut can float across waves.
(C) Dandelion seeds are light and fluffy.
(D) Young plants compete for sunlight.

Use the passage "How a Small Seed Travels" to answer this question.



Detail turns?
Seal the deal.
Scan Me

Use both "The Lantern in the Closet" and "Winter Window" to answer this question.

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

(A) Both endings introduce a loud party
(B) Both endings show a deeper appreciation for something simple
(C) Both endings explain a science experiment
(D) Both endings warn readers about storms

Use both "The Lantern in the Closet" and "Winter Window" to answer this question.

22) Which sentence best describes a similarity between the story and the poem?

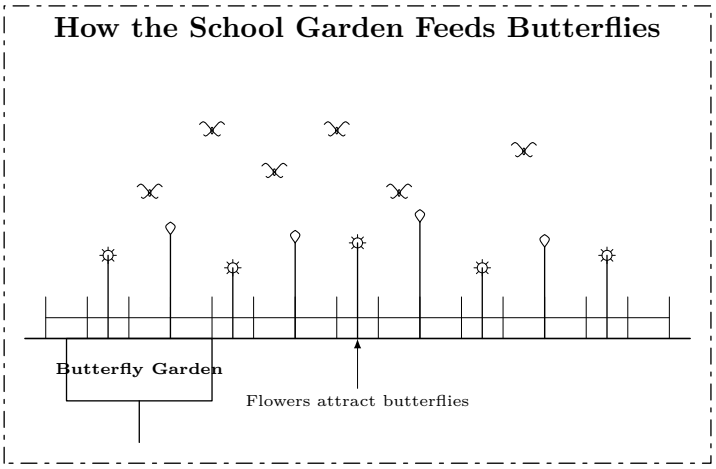
(A) Both texts are about losing an object
(B) Both texts happen during a picnic
(C) Both texts tell how to clean a room
(D) Both texts show how a quiet moment can become meaningful



Myth posters?
Feel the mood.
Scan Me

Read the passage below. Then answer questions 23–32.

How the School Garden Feeds Butterflies



Bright flowers in a school garden give butterflies food and a place to visit through the season.

1 When students planted the school garden in spring, they hoped it would look cheerful near the playground. Soon they noticed something else. Butterflies began visiting the flowers almost every day.

2 Butterflies need nectar, which is a sweet liquid found inside flowers. Flowers with bright colors and open shapes can make nectar easier for butterflies to reach.

3 The garden also helps caterpillars. Some butterflies lay eggs only on certain plants, because the caterpillars need those leaves for food after they hatch. A butterfly garden often includes both nectar flowers and leafy plants.

4 Students learned that butterflies do more than decorate the garden. As they move from flower to flower, they may carry pollen. This can help some plants make seeds.

5 By summer, the garden had become an outdoor classroom. Students sketched wings, counted visits, and wrote down which flowers butterflies liked best. The garden taught them that helping wildlife can begin with one small patch of soil.

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23) What is the central idea of this article?

(A) Caterpillars should live in classrooms
(B) Butterflies visit only red flowers
(C) A school butterfly garden helps butterflies and teaches students
(D) Students should sketch only in summer

Use the passage "How the School Garden Feeds Butterflies" to answer this question.

24) How does the author organize the article?

(A) By telling a fantasy story about insects
(B) By listing the names of all flowers
(C) By explaining different ways the garden helps butterflies
(D) By comparing butterflies with birds

Use the passage "How the School Garden Feeds Butterflies" to answer this question.

25) What does the word *decorate* mean as it is used in paragraph 4?

(A) Dig into the ground
(B) Make a loud sound
(C) Add beauty to something
(D) Swim through water

Rhyme words? Scan to start. Scan Me