7 Full-Length Minnesota MCA-III Reading Practice Tests

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

Grade 5



Practice Master Achieve

Reza Nazari

Grade 5 · Minnesota · MCA-III

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

Full-Length Practice for MCA-III Preparation
and Academic Confidence

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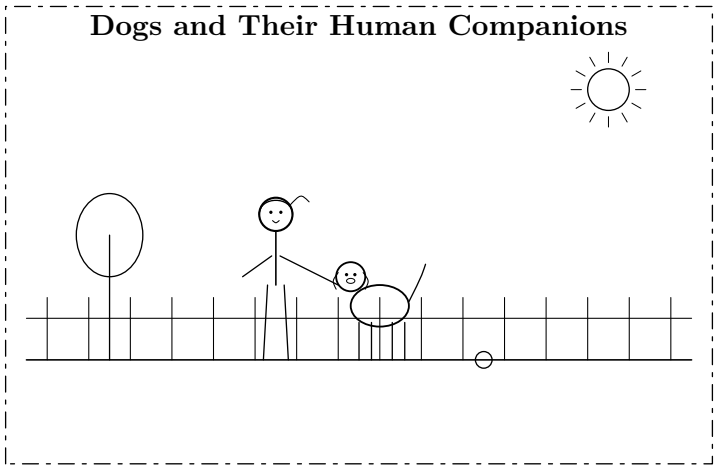
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Read the passage and the illustration below. Then answer questions 1–8.



A child and her golden retriever enjoy a sunny afternoon together

How Dogs Became Our Best Friends

1 Of all the animals that share our homes and our lives, none has a closer bond with humans than the dog. From tiny Chihuahuas to giant Great Danes, there are more than 340 breeds of dogs in the world today—and every single one of them descended from wolves. The story of how wild wolves became loyal, loving companions is one of the most fascinating tales in all of science.

From Wolves to Dogs

Ballad leads? Scan for pace.
Scan Me

2 Scientists believe that dogs were domesticated—tamed from wild animals and adapted to live with humans—somewhere between 15,000 and 40,000 years ago. No one knows exactly how it happened, but the most popular theory is that some wolves began following early human hunters to feed on the scraps of food left behind. The wolves that were less afraid of people, and less aggressive, were allowed to stay closer. Over many generations, these friendlier wolves slowly changed both in body and behavior until they became a separate species: the domestic dog.

Built to Connect

3 Dogs have evolved some remarkable abilities that help them connect with people. Research shows that dogs can understand dozens—sometimes hundreds—of human words. Some dogs have been trained to recognize more than a thousand different objects by their names. More impressively, dogs can read human emotions. They notice when a person is sad, frightened, or excited, often before other people do. A dog that nuzzles a crying child is not just being friendly—it is responding to a signal it has learned to read over thousands of years.

Partners in Work

4 Throughout history, humans have relied on dogs for much more than companionship. Dogs have herded sheep, guarded homes, and pulled sleds across frozen tundra. Today, dogs serve as guides for people who are blind, as detectors of explosives and illegal substances for law enforcement, and as therapy animals that visit hospitals and schools. Military working dogs serve alongside soldiers in some of the world's most dangerous locations.

Scan Me
Mini grids?
Ace every writing.

5 Scientists have also discovered that interacting with dogs has measurable health benefits for people. Spending time with a dog lowers blood pressure, reduces stress hormones, and increases feelings of happiness. Studies show that children who grow up with dogs often develop stronger immune systems and greater empathy for others. This ancient partnership, it seems, was good for both species all along.

6 The next time your dog looks up at you with those warm, trusting eyes, remember: that gaze is the product of tens of thousands of years of friendship. You are not just looking at a pet—you are looking at one of humanity's oldest and most loyal allies.

Read this dictionary entry.

bond *noun*

1. a strong feeling of connection or loyalty between people or animals
2. a rope or chain used to tie something down
3. a legal promise to pay money
4. something that holds two surfaces together

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

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



Detail turns? Seal the deal.
Scan Me

Read the poem. Then answer questions 15–16.



Myth posters?
Feel the mood.
Scan Me

Lift

I built a kite from paper thin
and sticks of balsa wood,
and every knot I tied so tight
just like I knew I should.

The first time that I let it go
it dove and struck the ground.
I smoothed the crinkled paper back
without a sigh or sound.

The second time it lurched and dipped
and shuddered left and right.
But something in its wobble told
me: give it room and height.

The third time was the one. It climbed
in spirals, high and free,
until it seemed the kite forgot
it was attached to me.

And there I stood with string in hand,
part earthbound, partly sky—
the kite had found its lift at last
and so, I think, had I.

15) What does the word *lurched* most likely mean in line 9?

(A) moved in a sudden, unsteady jerk
(B) spun in a perfect circle
(C) floated smoothly and gently
(D) fell straight down without moving

Use the poem "Lift" to answer this question.

16) In lines 17–20, the speaker says they stood "part earthbound, partly sky" and that the kite had found its lift—"and so, I think, had I." What do these lines most likely mean?

(A) The kite pulled the speaker into the air because the wind was too strong.
(B) The speaker learned to fly the kite so well that they were able to float off the ground.
(C) The speaker decided to give the kite to someone else who could fly it better.
(D) The speaker felt both grounded and uplifted at the same time, and discovered their own sense of freedom and achievement through the kite.

Use the poem "Lift" to answer this question.

17) Which sentence **best** describes how the speaker's feelings about the kite **change** from the beginning to the end of the poem?

(A) The speaker begins by giving the kite away and ends wishing they had never tried.
(B) The speaker begins with failed flights and frustration but ends joyful and uplifted when the kite soars and the speaker feels a personal sense of lift, too.
(C) The speaker begins bored with the wind and ends angry at the person who built the kite.
(D) The speaker begins sure the kite will fly perfectly and ends disappointed that kites are illegal.

Rhyme words? Scan to start. Scan Me