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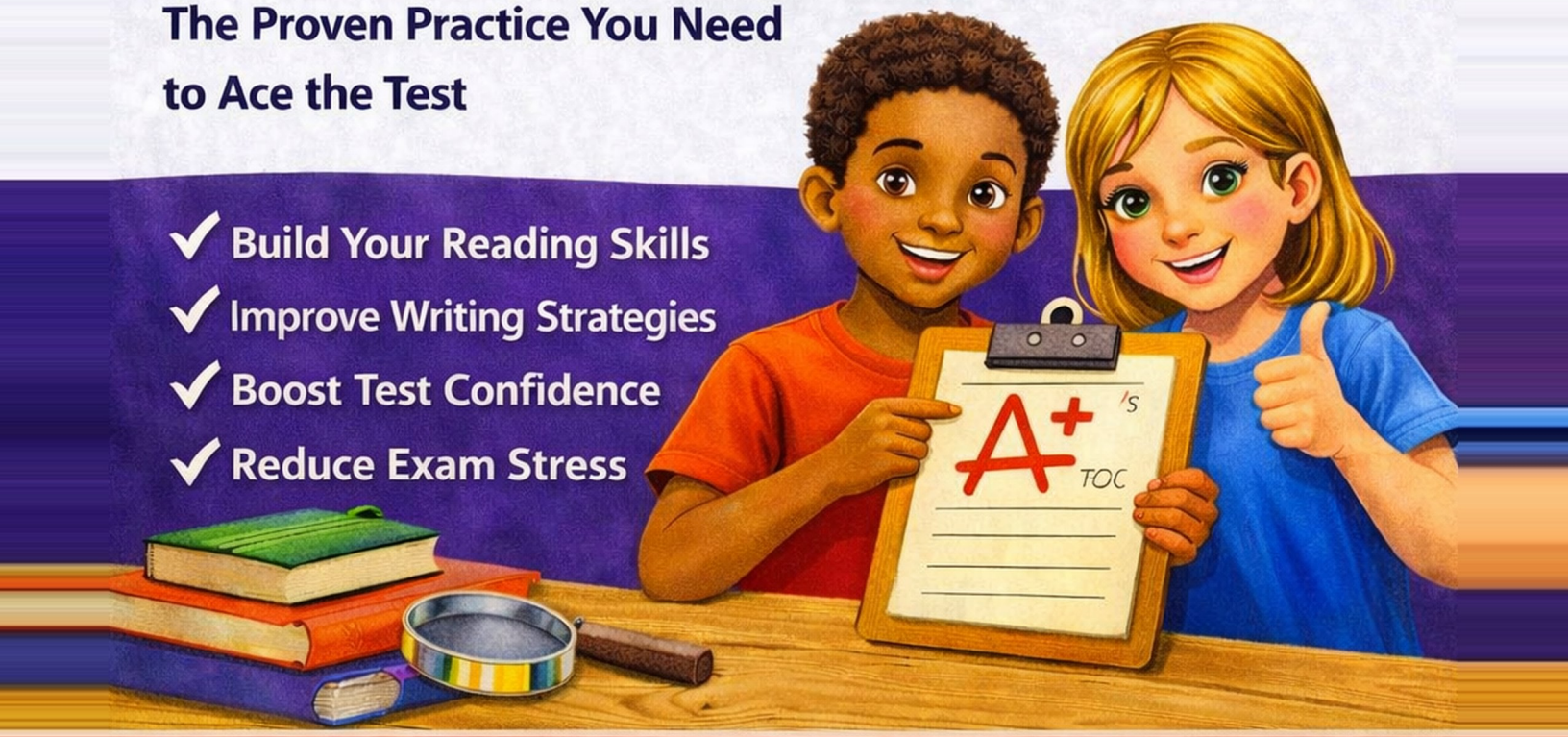
Grade 5

English Language Arts (ELA)

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8 Alaska Grade 5
English Language Arts (ELA)
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Full-Length Practice for AK STAR Preparation
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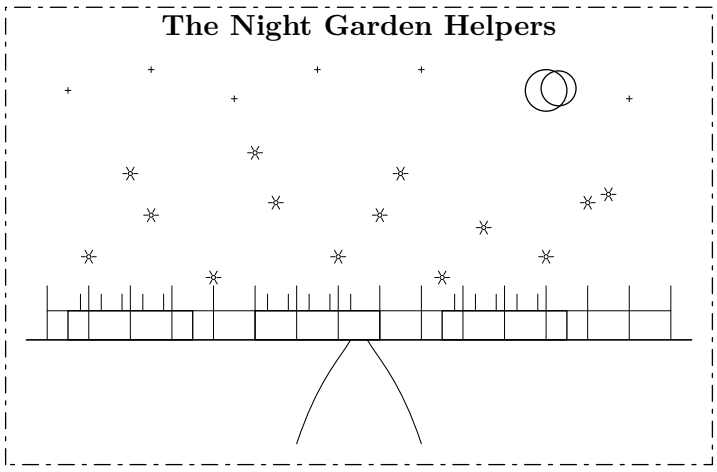
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Read the passage below. Then answer questions 1–9.

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.



Kind rows?
Proof in text.

Scan Me

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

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

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

(A) Fireflies are the most magical insects in the world.
(B) A firefly is a type of beetle.
(C) Bright lights can make it harder for fireflies to see signals.
(D) Fireflies can make cool light in their bodies.

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

3) Why does the author use a **problem-and-solution** structure in paragraph 5?

(A) To show what harms fireflies and explain how people can help
(B) To compare fireflies with worms and slugs
(C) To tell a funny story about a garden at night
(D) To list the steps for planting a flower bed

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

4) What is the central idea of this article?

(A) Slugs and worms always destroy every plant they touch.
(B) All insects should be kept in glass jars indoors.
(C) Fireflies are useful insects that help gardens and need safe places to live.
(D) Gardens are only beautiful during the daytime.

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

5) Which detail **best** supports the idea that fireflies help gardens?

(A) Fireflies blink over the grass on summer evenings.
(B) Young fireflies eat tiny pests that can damage plants.
(C) Some fireflies flash to find other fireflies.
(D) Fireflies glow in the dark.



Autumn parts? Mind the tone.

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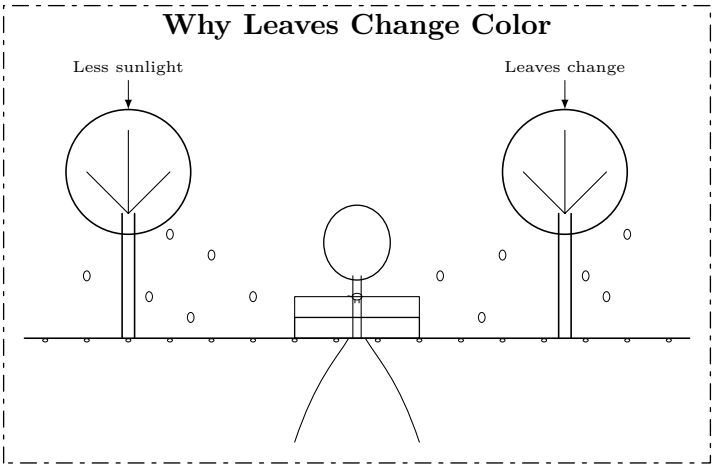
Use both "The Library Map" and "Inside a Book" to answer this question.

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

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

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

22) How is the information in paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 **organized**?

(A) In a sequence that explains what happens as autumn begins
(B) By giving directions for planting a tree
(C) By comparing two students at school
(D) By telling a personal story about a hike

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

23) What does the word *fade* mean as it is used in paragraph 2?

(A) To become less strong or bright
(B) To make a loud sound
(C) To grow larger every hour
(D) To jump high in the air

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

24) In which paragraph would a reader learn why fallen leaves are still useful?

(A) Paragraph 6
(B) Paragraph 1
(C) Paragraph 3
(D) Paragraph 5

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

25) Why does the author include information about chlorophyll in paragraph 1?

(A) To describe how to rake a yard quickly
(B) To prove that all trees are the same size
(C) To explain why leaves are green in the first place
(D) To show that autumn leaves are dangerous

