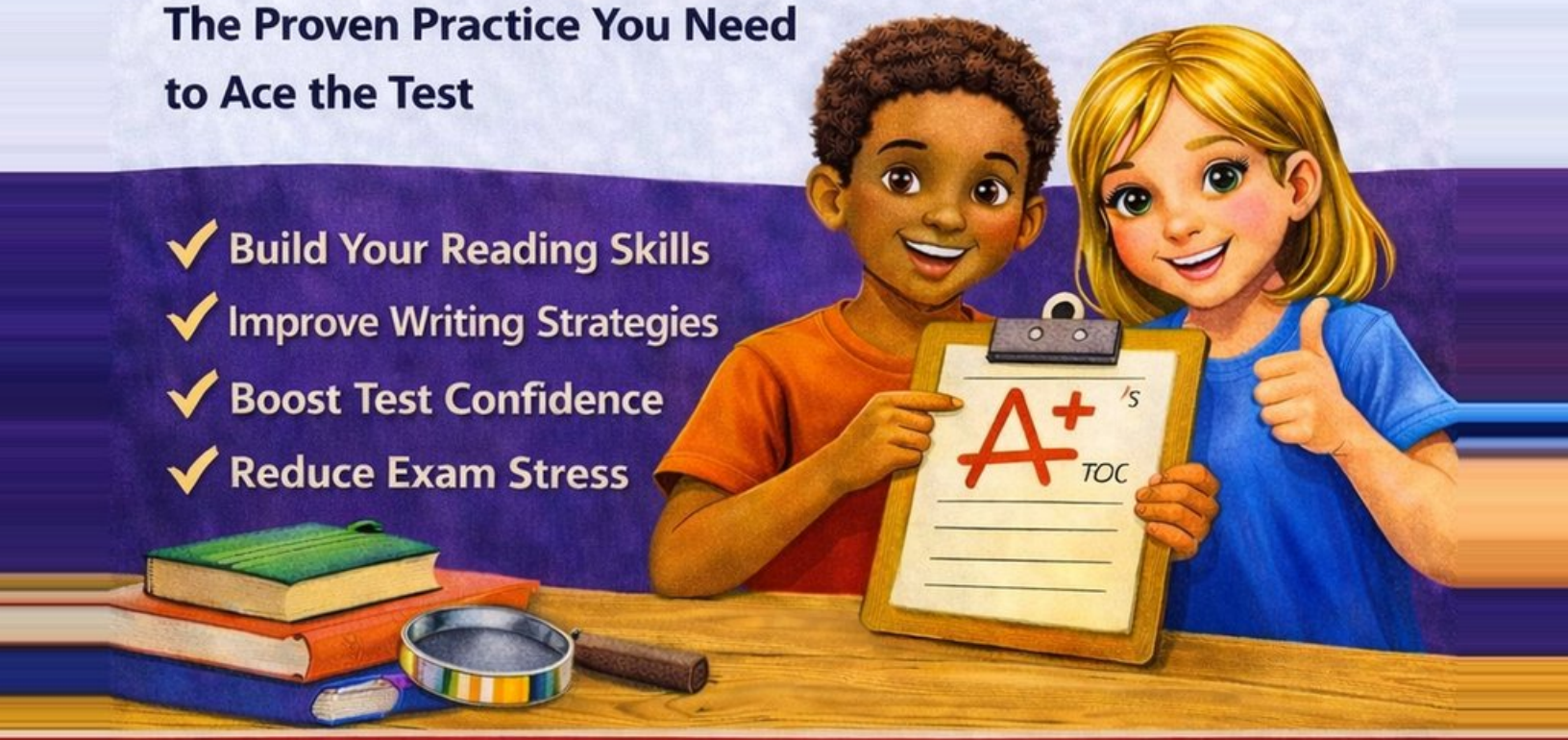
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The Big Day

Your Test Day Playbook.

Tear this page out in your head. Take it with you.

◯ The Night Before

- Pack your bag now, not in the morning. Sharpened pencils, eraser, water bottle, ID if needed.
- Do *not* cram. A short, easy review is fine. A four-hour panic session is not.
- Eat a normal dinner. Tonight is not the night to try something new.
- Go to bed the same time you do on a school night. A tired brain reads slower.

◯ The Morning Of

- Eat breakfast — something with protein, not just sugar. Your brain is about to work hard.
- Move a little. A walk, stretching, even bouncing on your toes wakes up your body.
- Arrive early. Rushing in a few minutes late sets a rattled mood for the whole test.
- Take one slow, deep breath at the door. *In for four, out for six.* Try it.

◯ During the Test

- **Skim the questions first**, then read the passage with purpose.
- **Never leave a question blank.** A careful guess can be right; empty is always wrong.
- **Stuck? Circle it and move on.** Easier points are waiting. Come back when your brain is fresh.
- **Trust your first read.** Changing answers without a real reason almost always hurts.
- **Watch the clock but do not stare at it.** Glance every few questions. That is enough.

One last thing.

When you sit down on test day, remember: you are not starting this test alone. Every passage you read, every question you untangled, every morning you chose to open this book — all of it is sitting there in your head, on your team. Now go show it what you can do.

— Reza Nazari

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14) How do the story and poem approach a similar idea?

(A) Both texts show characters acting mainly to gain approval from others.
(B) Both texts treat strong feelings as more important than lasting consequences.
(C) Both texts show that quiet actions can lead to meaningful results.
(D) Both texts suggest that quick results matter more than careful choices.

Use both "Channel Marker" and "Marsh Breath" to answer this question.

15) **This question has two correct answers.** Choose the **two** details from the story and the poem that **together** best support the shared theme.

(A) "When the pause ends, Felix keeps measuring and notices the steady signs of recovery over months." (story, paragraph 4)
(B) "By the time Felix reaches the boardwalk at low tide, a wooden stake painted with measurement lines already feels heavier than it looks." (story, paragraph 1)
(C) "What mends can first be read in patient, steady signs, / and small decisions shape the heart." (poem, second stanza)
(D) "Not every turning point is loud, / or marked by drums in the street." (poem, first stanza)
(E) "Others on the team are ready to move quickly, but Felix knows the next decision will reflect more than simple efficiency." (story, paragraph 2)

Use both "Channel Marker" and "Marsh Breath" to answer this question.

16) Which sentence best summarizes the connection between the two texts?

(A) The story shows a practical choice, while the poem suggests that effort matters only when others notice it.
(B) Both texts link quiet effort to a lasting outcome.
(C) The story focuses on a specific decision, while the poem mostly recalls a moment from the past.
(D) Both texts suggest that immediate results matter more than what lasts over time.

Scan Me

Read the article. Then answer questions 17–23.

How Urban Beekeeping Helps Cities

1 Cities may seem like unlikely places for honeybees, but urban beekeeping has been growing across the country. Rooftop hives and community apiaries now sit alongside water towers and antenna arrays in dozens of metropolitan areas.

2 Scientists at the University of Michigan tracked pollen samples from urban hives and found that bees in cities visit a wider range of flowering plants than bees in many rural monoculture farms. The variety matters because diverse pollen leads to stronger colonies and higher-quality honey.

3 Urban beekeeping also supports food production beyond honey. About one-third of the food Americans eat depends on pollination, and bees are the most efficient pollinators for many crops. Community gardens near urban hives have reported noticeably higher yields of tomatoes, squash, and peppers.

4 Managing bees in a city does present challenges. Beekeepers must consider neighbors, building codes, and water sources. Most cities now require registration and set rules about hive placement, usually demanding that hives face away from sidewalks and sit at least fifteen feet from property lines.

5 Training programs have made the hobby more accessible. Organizations like the city's Bee Collective offer weekend workshops where newcomers learn to inspect frames, recognize healthy brood patterns, and harvest honey without harming the colony.

6 Critics worry about the risk of stings and allergic reactions. However, honeybees are far less aggressive than wasps. A well-managed hive in a quiet corner of a rooftop rarely causes problems. In fact, several hospitals and schools have installed educational hives to teach students about ecology.

7 Urban beekeeping connects city residents to the natural systems that sustain them. As more people learn to care for bees, they also begin to notice which plants bloom, when seasons shift, and how small organisms shape entire ecosystems. The hive becomes a lens for understanding the living city.

17) What is the central idea of this article?

(A) Urban beekeeping is becoming popular because rooftops let residents produce honey close to where they live.
(B) Urban beekeeping provides ecological benefits and connects city residents to natural systems.
(C) Urban beekeeping depends on costly equipment and oversight that many city programs may struggle to provide.
(D) Urban beekeeping matters mainly because cities need strict rules to prevent conflicts between hives and neighbors.

Use the article "How Urban Beekeeping Helps Cities" to answer this question.

18) According to the article, why does diverse pollen benefit honeybees?

(A) It makes honey taste sweeter to consumers.
(B) It leads to stronger colonies and higher-quality honey.
(C) It allows bees to fly longer distances each day.
(D) It reduces the number of hives a beekeeper needs.

Use the article "How Urban Beekeeping Helps Cities" to answer this question.