5 ACT Aspire

English Language Arts

Practice Tests

Grade 8



Practice Smart. Score Higher.

Small Steps, Big Gains! Small Steps, Big Gains!

Practice Master Achieve

Reza Nazari

ACT Aspire ACT Aspire Grade 8 English Language Arts: Five Full Practice Tests For Confident Prep

Focused Review To Help Students Ace The Test

Quick Start | Skill Check | Confidence

Best for a strong opening stretch

Build momentum with a compact set of full practice tests that sharpen close reading, careful evidence use, and calm decision-making from day one.

Reza Nazari

Built for a strong, steady start to Grade 8 practice

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The Big Day

Your Test Day Playbook.

Calm is a skill. This is how to bring it with you.

◯ The Night Before

- Pack everything tonight. Pencils, eraser, water, ID, approved calculator if needed.
- Do light review only — a single short passage. No new material. No all-nighter.
- Eat something familiar. Tonight is not the night to experiment with anything new.
- Phone out of the room an hour before bed. Protect your sleep like it is part of the grade.

◯ The Morning Of

- Eat protein and complex carbs. Skip the sugar spike — the crash comes during the test.
- Move your body for five minutes. Walk, stretch, shake out your hands. Lower the nerves.
- Arrive early enough to settle, not so early that waiting builds up pressure.
- At the door, four slow breaths: *in for four, hold for four, out for six.* It works.

During the Test

- **Preview the questions**, then read the passage hunting specific answers.
- **Answer every question.** A guess has better odds than a blank — always.
- **Skip hard ones and return.** Easy points protect your time budget. Come back with fresh eyes.
- **Trust your first read.** Change an answer only when you find concrete evidence, not a hunch.
- **Pace by section, not by question.** Check the clock every few minutes, not every question.
- **If anxiety spikes, breathe and reset.** Ten slow seconds saves ten lost minutes.
- **Save 2–3 minutes at the end.** Review flagged items, confirm your bubbled answers.

One last thing.

High school starts soon, but you do not have to wait for it to begin showing up as the reader and writer you want to be. Test day is just a window. Open it, show your thinking clearly, and step through. The next version of you is already on the other side.

— Reza Nazari

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Use the story and poem to answer this question.

10) How does Omar change over the course of the story?

(A) He moves from curiosity about the workshop as a place to understanding it as a lesson in exact, patient attention.
(B) He decides that finished objects are more interesting than making them.
(C) He begins as an experienced woodworker and ends disappointed by the craft.
(D) He refuses to return to the workshop after the lid resists.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

11) Which statement best expresses a theme of the story?

(A) Tools are more important than patience in craftsmanship.
(B) Good work often depends on learning to notice what resistance is trying to reveal.
(C) Family traditions matter only when they produce useful objects.
(D) Unfinished projects should be avoided whenever possible.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

12) What does the author suggest by saying the room was built around unfinished effort in paragraph 2?

(A) The workshop was too messy to use properly.
(B) The grandmother had stopped making boxes years earlier.
(C) Nothing in the workshop was ever completed.
(D) The workshop mattered because it preserved process and ongoing work, not just finished products.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

13) Why does the author include the grandmother's line about bullying the wood?

(A) To prove that wood is too fragile for beginners
(B) To explain why Omar should stop using the smallest box
(C) To suggest that the workshop is unsafe
(D) To show that force is less useful than careful observation in craftsmanship

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

14) How are the story and poem most alike?

(A) Both focus on repairing a damaged workshop door.
(B) Both show that making something well requires patience and attention rather than force.
(C) Both argue that finished products matter less than tools.
(D) Both describe keys as useless objects.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

15) Which **TWO** lines from the poem best support the idea that craftsmanship depends on listening to material?Select **TWO** correct answers.

(A) Wood answers slowly.
(B) but only one opened the work beneath the work:
(C) in the edge that almost fits.
(D) It tells the truth in resistance,
(E) The drawer held many keys,

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

16) How does the mood of the poem shift from beginning to end?

(A) From fear to relief
(B) From joy to anger
(C) From curiosity about an object to reflective respect for a process
(D) From confusion to humor

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

17) What shared message do the story and poem convey?

(A) Old workshops should be kept closed unless supervised.
(B) Every family should preserve unfinished projects.
(C) Careful making depends on listening to what materials and problems reveal, not on forcing quick results.
(D) Skill comes mostly from owning the right tools.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

18) Which sentence best summarizes the story?

(A) Omar finds a key and uses it to open a locked cupboard full of tools.
(B) After helping his grandmother clean and work in an old workshop, Omar learns that craftsmanship depends on precise, patient attention.
(C) A grandmother gives Omar a finished box as a family gift.
(D) Omar breaks a wooden lid and must replace it.

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