5 Common Core English Language Arts

Grade 8

Practice Tests



Practice Smart. Score Higher.

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

Practice Master Achieve

Reza Nazari

Common Core Common Core 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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5 That evening Noor carefully returned the brass compass to its drawer, though definitely not to obscurity or neglect anymore. Now it felt significantly less like a mere old object gathering dust and more like a tangible conversation with her aunt that she had finally begun to fully understand and appreciate.

North

The needle does not tell me what to want.
It only quiets the noise long enough
for direction to separate from hurry.

Crowds are their own weather,
gusting toward whatever looks certain.
But true north asks for a different courage:
to trust a line too thin for applause.

I have learned to hold the compass lightly,
not as an answer, but as a question
that keeps my steps honest.

---

9) What does the word *obscurity* mean as it is used in paragraph 5?

(A) a state of being broken
(B) a condition of being forgotten or unnoticed
(C) a feeling of confusion
(D) a kind of bright light

Scan Me

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

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

(A) She starts as a skilled navigator and ends uncertain about everything.
(B) She learns that maps are useless compared with speed.
(C) She moves from relying on appearances and group behavior to trusting careful judgment and evidence.
(D) She decides never to borrow family items again.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

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

(A) Old objects should be kept in drawers where they are safe.
(B) Competition matters more than teamwork.
(C) Tools are most useful when guided by patience and thoughtful decision making.
(D) Following the crowd is usually the smartest choice.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

12) What does the author suggest by saying the quieter direction looked wrong in paragraph 3?

(A) Noor prefers loud teammates to quiet ones.
(B) The map she used was printed incorrectly.
(C) Navigation challenges usually reward risky guesses.
(D) The best choice may feel less obvious than the one most people are following.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

13) Why does the author include the aunt's line about asking the right question?

(A) To introduce the idea that a tool cannot replace careful thinking
(B) To prove that the aunt doubts Noor's abilities
(C) To show that compasses are outdated
(D) To explain how geography became a school subject

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

14) How are the story and poem most alike?

(A) Both argue that crowds are always wrong.
(B) Both focus on literal travel through storms.
(C) Both suggest that guidance tools are useful because they help people think more clearly, not because they eliminate judgment.
(D) Both describe a family heirloom being lost.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

15) Which **TWO** lines from the poem best support the idea that direction requires resisting hurry and social pressure?Select **TWO** correct answers.

(A) for direction to separate from hurry.
(B) Crowds are their own weather,
(C) gusting toward whatever looks certain.
(D) I have learned to hold the compass lightly,
(E) that keeps my steps honest.