5 Illinois IAR

English Language Arts

Practice Tests

Grade 8



Practice Smart. Score Higher.

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

Practice Master Achieve

Reza Nazari

Illinois IAR 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

Table of Contents

★ Practice Test 1 ____ 10
★ Practice Test 2 ____ 42
★ Practice Test 3 ____ 73
★ Practice Test 4 ____ 107
★ Practice Test 5 ____ 139
Practice Test Answer Keys ____ 172
Practice Test Answers and Explanations ____ 175

5 When June locked the cabinet again at the end of the day, she noticed immediately that she was being careful with the key in a new way, with newfound respect and understanding. She understood suddenly that archives and historical preservation depend fundamentally on countless ordinary acts of attention and care: labeling a key so it will not be lost, preserving a paper document from deterioration, writing down a person's name in a ledger before that name and story fades from memory completely. History, she realized with clarity, is often protected and preserved by the dedication of people doing quiet, meticulous work well, without expectation of recognition or dramatic reward.

Index Cards

The smallest records do not ask for praise.
They wait in drawers, in penciled margins,
in dates written carefully because someone knew
forgetting has a habit of widening over time.

A card, a label, a clipped article,
none of them grand enough for a monument,
yet each one keeps a hinge from rusting shut
between what happened and what can still be known.

Call it filing if you want.
I call it a form of guarding
the door through which memory returns.

Scan Me

9) What does the word *anonymous* mean as it is used in paragraph 1?

(A) extremely valuable
(B) without a known identity
(C) too fragile to touch
(D) newly manufactured

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

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

(A) She wants to become an engineer instead of an archivist.
(B) She starts fascinated by history and decides archives are unnecessary.
(C) She begins bored by the task and comes to understand that careful archival work protects important history.
(D) She learns that unlabeled objects should usually be thrown away.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

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

(A) Quiet, careful work can protect knowledge that would otherwise disappear.
(B) Objects matter more than the stories connected to them.
(C) Only experts should be trusted with public history.
(D) The most important historical discoveries happen by accident alone.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

12) What does Mr. Liao most likely mean when he says the answer is waiting behind *the last unlabeled key*?

(A) Important discoveries can emerge from overlooked materials when someone takes the time to investigate them.
(B) The final task of the day will be the easiest one.
(C) Archives should remain locked so people do not disturb them.
(D) Labels are less useful than memory.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

13) Why does the author list items such as factory whistles, train schedules, and songs in paragraph 4?

(A) To prove the town was larger than expected
(B) To suggest June is distracted by unrelated details
(C) To explain how to organize an archive alphabetically
(D) To show the range of everyday experiences preserved in the oral histories

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

14) How are the story and the poem most alike?

(A) Both describe the destruction of historical documents.
(B) Both argue that only famous events deserve to be remembered.
(C) Both emphasize that small records and acts of preservation can protect memory.
(D) Both focus on repairing broken machines.