5 Michigan M-STEP English Language Arts Practice Tests

Grade 8



Practice Smart. Score Higher.

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

Practice Master Achieve

Reza Nazari

Michigan M-STEP 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.

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

(A) Presentations succeed mainly because of confidence.
(B) First drafts are usually better than later ones.
(C) Strong work often begins when people choose clarity and accuracy over trying to sound important.
(D) Historical topics require formal language to sound credible.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

12) What does the author suggest by saying revisions felt like sharpening instead of searching in paragraph 3?

(A) Nadia stopped revising completely after the third draft.
(B) The computer's search feature was no longer necessary.
(C) Nadia replaced formal vocabulary with shorter words only.
(D) Once she found her real starting point, revision became refinement rather than confusion.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

13) Why does the author include the examples of the science teacher and classmate in paragraph 4?

(A) To suggest that schoolwork should always be done in groups
(B) To show that Nadia's insight about precision applies beyond her own writing
(C) To prove that art and science use the same vocabulary
(D) To explain why Nadia's school day feels stressful

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

14) How are the story and poem most alike?

(A) Both use the idea of an entrance or doorway to suggest finding the right way into a piece of work.
(B) Both focus on public speaking more than writing.
(C) Both describe the design of a building.
(D) Both argue that writing should avoid revision.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

15) Which **TWO** lines from the poem best support the idea that simpler, truer language can be more effective?Select **TWO** correct answers.

(A) Then I found the smaller entrance,
(B) the one with carved language
(C) plain wood,
(D) and a handle too polished to grip.
(E) less like a stage

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

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

(A) From strained effort to honest ease
(B) From confusion to anger
(C) From joy to sadness
(D) From calm to panic

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

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

(A) Writers should avoid outside advice.
(B) Complex language is always the clearest choice.
(C) Finding the right beginning often means choosing what is accurate and authentic rather than what sounds most impressive.
(D) All revisions weaken a piece of writing.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

18) Which sentence best summarizes the story?

(A) Nadia changes her presentation topic after speaking with her grandfather.
(B) A teacher rewrites Nadia's presentation for her at school.
(C) While revising a history presentation, Nadia learns that clear, truthful language helps her find a stronger opening and a more authentic voice.
(D) Nadia gives a speech without using any notes.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

19) In the poem, what does the phrase *the grand door* most likely represent?

(A) A literal entrance to a theater stage
(B) A historical building described in the presentation
(C) A classroom door that is hard to open
(D) An overly formal or impressive-sounding way of beginning that does not fit the writer's real thought

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