5 SBAC

English Language Arts

Practice Tests

Grade 8



Practice Smart. Score Higher.

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

Practice Master Achieve

Reza Nazari

SBAC Smarter Balanced 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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I used to think progress looked polished,
clean as a ruler's edge.
Now I trust the patient curve
that learns its strength by meeting resistance.

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9) What does the word *buckle* mean as it is used in paragraph 4 of the story?

(A) to shine brightly
(B) to move in a straight line
(C) to bend or collapse under pressure
(D) to grow wider over time

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

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

(A) He begins as a patient partner and becomes careless.
(B) He moves from valuing appearance to understanding the importance of testing and revision.
(C) He decides that engineering is not useful outside the classroom.
(D) He learns that teamwork usually slows progress.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

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

(A) Real strength often develops through experimentation and revision.
(B) Competition usually ruins collaboration.
(C) A perfect first attempt is better than repeated testing.
(D) Paper is stronger than metal in all situations.

Scan Me

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

12) In paragraph 5, what does the author suggest by saying strength can hide inside *awkwardness*?

(A) Something that looks imperfect can still be highly effective.
(B) Messy work is always better than careful work.
(C) Students should ignore directions during experiments.
(D) Awkwardness is necessary only in engineering contests.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

13) Why does the author include Samira's line, *Paper doesn't stay weak if you change its shape*?

(A) To show that Samira dislikes newspapers
(B) To introduce the scientific idea that structure affects strength
(C) To explain why bricks are hard to lift
(D) To prove that Eli already understands engineering

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

14) How are the story and poem most alike?

(A) Both focus on winning a competition against classmates.
(B) Both show that polished appearances are the clearest sign of success.
(C) Both argue that nature is easier to understand than design.
(D) Both suggest that strength develops through repeated effort and resistance.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

15) Which **TWO** lines from the poem best support the idea that growth comes from repeated effort?Select **TWO** correct answers.

(A) by water trying, failing, trying again
(B) Every bend remembers pressure.
(C) that learns its strength by meeting resistance.
(D) clean as a ruler's edge.
(E) of yesterday's handprint in the mud.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

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

(A) From humor to panic
(B) From anger to embarrassment
(C) From detached observation to reflective confidence
(D) From joy to fear

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

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

(A) Nature and engineering should never be compared.
(B) Success depends mostly on appearances.
(C) Obstacles can help shape stronger results.
(D) People should avoid difficult challenges whenever possible.

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