6 Colorado CMAS

English Language Arts Practice Tests

for Grade 8

A Complete Guide to Building Math Mastery and Excelling on the Test



- **Real Practice. Real Results.**
- Small Steps, Big Gains!
- **Practice Smart.** Score Higher:
- Detailed Explanations
- **Practice**
- **Master**
- **Achieve**

Reza Nazari

6 Colorado CMAS Grade 8

English Language Arts (ELA)

Practice Tests

A Complete Guide To Building

English Language Mastery And

Excelling On The CMAS Assessment

Read

Track the central idea and gather evidence that matters.

Revise

Slow down, test your thinking, and make stronger choices.

Reflect

Build a repeatable routine across all six tests.

Build the habits that strong readers use every day.

Six tests give students enough repetition to build habit, reflection, and control without losing momentum.

Reza Nazari

Built for deliberate practice and steady revision

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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 ____ 44
★ Practice Test 3 ____ 75
★ Practice Test 4 ____ 106
★ Practice Test 5 ____ 138
★ Practice Test 6 ____ 169
Practice Test Answer Keys ____ 201
Practice Test Answers and Explanations ____ 204

4 When the program's final public exhibit opened to the community, many visitors certainly admired the glossy digital posters that students had carefully made on tablets and computers, but several individuals notably lingered at the demonstration table where Suri was showing the vintage letterpress. She watched their expressions change dramatically and noticeably when a blank sheet of paper passed slowly beneath the heavy rollers and emerged carrying precise sharp black text. For the first time throughout the entire summer program, she did not feel like she was merely presenting a finished project for evaluation. She felt profoundly like she was authentically sharing a real process that had taught her viscerally how careful attention can become visible and tangible in the final work.

5 That evening, after the community print shop closed for the day, Suri deliberately stayed behind independently for one final, special impression on the press. She chose a single meaningful sentence to print carefully and then pinned the resulting page above her desk at home as a personal reminder: *Slow is not the opposite of skill.* Looking at that page much later, she realized with insight that the letterpress had given her substantially more than a simple printing technique or mechanical skill. It had fundamentally altered the fundamental pace and rhythm at which she trusted herself to learn and develop proficiency over time.

Impression

The page enters blank but not empty,
waiting for pressure to teach it shape.
Ink does not rush.
It settles where the hand has prepared a place.

Scan Me

Metal letters speak only when aligned,
when patience closes the distance
between intention and result.

By the time the page is lifted,
what matters is not only what it says
but the care made visible in how it says it.

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

(A) a brand-new tool
(B) a machine missing essential parts
(C) an object from an earlier time
(D) a temporary display label

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

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

(A) She starts as an expert printer and ends uninterested in design.
(B) She begins skeptical of the old press and gradually comes to value the patience and precision it requires.
(C) She becomes frustrated because the machine is easier than she expected.
(D) She decides digital tools have no place in art programs.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

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

(A) Attention and patience can transform difficult work into a source of confidence.
(B) Art matters only when many people admire it.
(C) Modern tools are always superior to older ones.
(D) Machines prevent people from being creative.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

12) What does the author suggest by describing the press as *honest* in paragraph 3?

(A) The machine speaks directly to students when they make mistakes.
(B) The machine is simple enough for anyone to use perfectly.
(C) The machine reveals mistakes clearly instead of hiding them.
(D) The machine belongs to a trustworthy owner.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

13) Why does the author include the detail that visitors linger at Suri's demonstration table?

(A) To prove that the digital posters were unsuccessful
(B) To suggest the exhibit should have been held somewhere else
(C) To show that the machine is easy to repair
(D) To show that the press helps others notice the value of process as well as product