6

Delaware Smarter Balanced

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 Delaware Smarter Balanced Grade 8

English Language Arts (ELA)

Practice Tests

A Complete Guide To Building

English Language Mastery And

Excelling On The Smarter Balanced 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

Copyrighted Material

Copyright © 2026

Effortless Math Education Inc

Published by Effortless Math Education
www.effortlessmath.com

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the author, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law, including Section 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act.

This publication is independently produced and has no official connection to any state, district, or national testing program.

Test names and organizational names used herein are the property of their respective trademark holders.

Copyright © 2026

Copyrighted Material

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 ____ 77
★ Practice Test 4 ____ 110
★ Practice Test 5 ____ 144
★ Practice Test 6 ____ 180
Practice Test Answer Keys ____ 215
Practice Test Answers and Explanations ____ 218

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

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

(A) He moves from curiosity about the workshop as a place to understanding it as a lesson in exact, patient attention.
(B) He decides that finished objects are more interesting than making them.
(C) He begins as an experienced woodworker and ends disappointed by the craft.
(D) He refuses to return to the workshop after the lid resists.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

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

(A) Tools are more important than patience in craftsmanship.
(B) Good work often depends on learning to notice what resistance is trying to reveal.
(C) Family traditions matter only when they produce useful objects.
(D) Unfinished projects should be avoided whenever possible.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

12) What does the author suggest by saying the room was built around unfinished effort in paragraph 2?

(A) The workshop was too messy to use properly.
(B) The grandmother had stopped making boxes years earlier.
(C) Nothing in the workshop was ever completed.
(D) The workshop mattered because it preserved process and ongoing work, not just finished products.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

13) Why does the author include the grandmother's line about bullying the wood?

(A) To prove that wood is too fragile for beginners
(B) To explain why Omar should stop using the smallest box
(C) To suggest that the workshop is unsafe
(D) To show that force is less useful than careful observation in craftsmanship

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

14) How are the story and poem most alike?

(A) Both focus on repairing a damaged workshop door.
(B) Both show that making something well requires patience and attention rather than force.
(C) Both argue that finished products matter less than tools.
(D) Both describe keys as useless objects.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

15) Which **TWO** lines from the poem best support the idea that craftsmanship depends on listening to material?Select **TWO** correct answers.

(A) Wood answers slowly.
(B) but only one opened the work beneath the work:
(C) in the edge that almost fits.
(D) It tells the truth in resistance,
(E) The drawer held many keys,

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

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

(A) From fear to relief
(B) From joy to anger
(C) From curiosity about an object to reflective respect for a process
(D) From confusion to humor

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

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

(A) Old workshops should be kept closed unless supervised.
(B) Every family should preserve unfinished projects.
(C) Careful making depends on listening to what materials and problems reveal, not on forcing quick results.
(D) Skill comes mostly from owning the right tools.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

18) Which sentence best summarizes the story?

(A) Omar finds a key and uses it to open a locked cupboard full of tools.
(B) After helping his grandmother clean and work in an old workshop, Omar learns that craftsmanship depends on precise, patient attention.
(C) A grandmother gives Omar a finished box as a family gift.
(D) Omar breaks a wooden lid and must replace it.

Scan Me