6 Nebraska NSCAS Growth

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 Nebraska NSCAS Growth Grade 8

English Language Arts (ELA)

Practice Tests

A Complete Guide To Building

English Language Mastery And

Excelling On The NSCAS Growth 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

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Use the story and poem to answer this question.

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

(A) She moves from expecting instant wonder to appreciating the patience and precision required to see meaning in observations.
(B) She decides the night sky matters less than schoolwork.
(C) She begins already skilled with observatory equipment and ends bored by it.
(D) She stops paying attention once the galaxy image appears.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

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

(A) Technology makes direct observation unnecessary.
(B) Some forms of wonder become visible only through patience, method, and close attention.
(C) The night sky is more important than any instrument used to study it.
(D) Rules mostly prevent people from enjoying science.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

12) What does the author suggest by saying the images felt crowded with signals in paragraph 3?

(A) The observatory computer had too many files open.
(B) Mara began to realize that what first looked empty actually contained many details she had not known how to notice.
(C) The screen displayed several galaxies at once.
(D) The galaxy image was damaged by background light.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

13) Why does the author include the satellite streak in paragraph 3?

(A) To prove that satellites interfere with all astronomy
(B) To explain why observatories close before midnight
(C) To show that Felix prefers computer screens to telescopes
(D) To provide the first concrete moment when Mara learns that observation requires interpretation

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

14) How are the story and poem most alike?

(A) Both argue that night is empty unless technology is present.
(B) Both show that meaningful seeing depends on sustained attention rather than instant revelation.
(C) Both focus on fear of darkness.
(D) Both compare stars to city lights.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

15) Which **TWO** lines from the poem best support the idea that observation requires patience and method?Select **TWO** correct answers.

(A) for stillness,
(B) Instead it asked for settings,
(C) after the first glance said there was nothing there.
(D) patient enough to keep the lens open.
(E) I thought the night would arrive already meaningful,

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

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

(A) From joy to disappointment
(B) From expectation to disciplined understanding
(C) From fear to humor
(D) From anger to relief

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

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

(A) Attention and method can reveal meaning where a first glance sees only emptiness.
(B) Instruments matter more than human observation.
(C) The night sky should be understood emotionally rather than scientifically.
(D) Wonder and discipline are opposites.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

18) Which sentence best summarizes the story?

(A) During a late observatory shift, Mara learns that scientific wonder depends on patience, careful settings, and the ability to notice details that are not obvious at first.
(B) A galaxy image disappoints Mara because it looks too ordinary.
(C) The observatory dome closes before she has time to help.
(D) Mara breaks an observatory rule and is sent home early.

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