



Grade 4

FCAT 2.0 Reading

Sample Answers

This booklet contains the answers to the FCAT 2.0 Reading sample questions, as well as explanations for the answers. It also gives the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) benchmark assessed by each item. Although the Florida State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards in the summer of 2010, these standards have not yet been implemented. For this reason, the FCAT 2.0 tests and sample questions and answers are based on the 2007 NGSSS. The benchmarks included in this booklet provide teachers with additional information. For more detailed information, follow this link to the Florida NGSSS website: <http://www.floridastandards.org/index.aspx>, or follow this link to the current benchmark language in the *FCAT 2.0 Reading Test Item Specifications*: <http://fcat.fldoe.org/fcat2/itemspecs.asp>.

Multiple-choice items in FCAT 2.0 Reading tests are scored by awarding one point for each correct answer.

The intent of these sample test materials is to orient teachers and students to the types of questions on FCAT 2.0 tests. By using these materials, students will become familiar with the types of items and response formats they will see on the actual test. The sample questions and answers are not intended to demonstrate the length of the actual test, nor should student responses be used as an indicator of student performance on the actual test. Additional information about test items can be found in the *FCAT 2.0 Test Item Specifications* at <http://fcat.fldoe.org/fcat2/itemspecs.asp>.

The sample questions for students and the sample answers for teachers will only be available online, at <http://fcat.fldoe.org/fcat2/fcatitem.asp>.

Passage: “Across the Blue Mountains”

Illustrations and entire text from ACROSS THE BLUE MOUNTAINS, copyright © 1993 Emma Chichester Clark, reprinted by permission of Harcourt, Inc.

- 1 The correct answer is D (She thinks she will be more content somewhere else).**

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.4.1.7.4 The student will identify cause-and-effect relationships in text.

The correct answer is D. The cause of Miss Bilberry wanting to move is that *She just couldn't stop wondering whether she might not be even happier if she lived on the other side of the mountains.*

- 2 The correct answer is G (They get confused and travel in the wrong direction).**

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.4.2.1.2 The student will identify and explain the elements of plot structure, including exposition, setting, character development, problem/resolution, and theme in a variety of fiction.

The correct answer is G. The passage states that *They reached a place where the flowers were taller than Miss Bilberry! They could hardly see where they were going.* At this point, the animals start arguing about the direction they should travel. *“This is the wrong way,” snarled Chester. “No it isn't,” snapped Cecilie.* Then, *Miss Bilberry climbed a tree, but she still wasn't sure where they were.*

- 3** The correct answer is C (Chitty and Chatty fly ahead and then lead the way to a house).

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.4.1.7.3 The student will determine explicit ideas and information in grade-level text, including but not limited to main idea, relevant supporting details, implied message, inferences, chronological order of events, summarizing, and paraphrasing.

The correct answer is C. After Miss Bilberry and her animals have been traveling for a long time and become lost in the tall flowers, Chitty and Chatty fly ahead. When they return, they say, *“We’ve found a lovely house . . . with trees and flowers! Follow us!”*

- 4** The correct answer is I (Miss Bilberry ends the journey where she began).

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.4.1.7.3 The student will determine explicit ideas and information in grade-level text, including but not limited to main idea, relevant supporting details, implied message, inferences, chronological order of events, summarizing, and paraphrasing.

The correct answer is I. The mountains are, as before, in front of the pale yellow house because the journey has ended where it began. This is supported by the author using the same description of Miss Bilberry’s house and surroundings at both the beginning and end of the passage. It is also supported by the reactions of the cat, Chester. This leads the reader to realize that they have returned to the same house.

5 The correct answer is B (She wonders why her new home is so familiar).

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.4.2.1.2 The student will identify and explain the elements of plot structure, including exposition, setting, character development, problem/resolution, and theme in a variety of fiction.

The correct answer is B. At the end of the passage, the narrator says, *It seemed to her that even though they had traveled a very long way, everything was much the same. Even the mountains, which should really have been at the back of the house, were still in front. It was a mystery to Miss Bilberry, and she sometimes worried about it.* This indicates that she realizes there are similarities, but she doesn't realize that it is the same house.

6 The correct answer is G (peaceful).

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.4.2.1.7 The student will identify and explain an author's use of descriptive, idiomatic, and figurative language (e.g., personification, similes, metaphors, symbolism), and examine how it is used to describe people, feelings, and objects.

The correct answer is G. The sentence does not create a mood that is sad or weary. Chester may be grateful, but that is not conveyed in the specific words. Because *swaying* describes a gentle motion, students can infer that the phrase *swaying palms* creates a peaceful mood.

- 7** The correct answer is D (to let readers know that Chester realizes the truth about the new house).

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.4.1.7.2 The student will identify the author’s purpose (e.g., to inform, entertain, explain) in text and how an author’s perspective influences text.

The correct answer is D. The author uses the same description of the house at the beginning and end of the passage along with several sentences to indicate that Chester is aware that they have returned to their old house. The last paragraph of the passage includes *Chester, the clever cat, smiled to himself. He knew the answer, but he would never tell Miss Bilberry.*

- 8** The correct answer is G (Be happy with what you have).

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.4.1.7.6 The student will identify themes or topics across a variety of fiction and nonfiction selections.

The correct answer is G. The passage is about Miss Bilberry, who thinks she will be happier if she moves. She unknowingly ends up at the same house and finds that she is just as happy as she was before she moved.

Article: “Play a Game”

“Play a Game” property of the Florida Department of Education.

- 9** The correct answer is B (to show that the games require few or no supplies).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.4.6.1.1 The student will read informational text and text features (e.g., format, graphics, legends, illustrations, diagrams) to organize information for different purposes (e.g., being informed, following multi-step directions, creating a report, conducting interviews, preparing to take a test, performing a task).

The correct answer is B. Students should comprehend that *materials* refers to physical objects. Since the materials are equated with *nothing but time & imagination*, students can conclude that the games require few or no supplies. In the section *Make Them LOOK! License Plate Games*, the suggestion is made to list on a piece of paper the states’ names you have seen.

- 10** The correct answer is H (They describe the main type of activity in each game).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.4.6.1.1 The student will read informational text and text features (e.g., format, graphics, legends, illustrations, diagrams) to organize information for different purposes (e.g., being informed, following multi-step directions, creating a report, conducting interviews, preparing to take a test, performing a task).

The correct answer is H. The third word in each boldface title relates to details in the set of games described in the section, and each word is important because it is presented in all capital letters. In the first group of games, players *look* for license plates. In the second group, players *think* of questions and make guesses. In the third group, players try to make other players *laugh*. Students should conclude from this information that these titles are intended to describe the main activity in each set of games.

- 11** The correct answer is C (Playing games makes long trips seem shorter).

Type of text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.4.1.7.2 The student will identify the author’s purpose (e.g., to inform, entertain, explain) in text and how an author’s perspective influences text.

The correct answer is C. The author reveals the belief that long trips can be boring and tiresome in the title and in the opening paragraph. *Tired? Bored? . . . Help pass the time on your trip: Play a Game!* immediately conveys the opinion that playing games can make trips in the car seem shorter. The word *long* is repeated to stress the torturous length; *a long bus ride can make even the most exciting field trip seem boring. When the bus is traveling a long distance . . . it can seem like forever. The road stretches like a rubber band for miles* emphasizes the negative connotation, but readers can *beat the road at its own game* by occupying their minds.

Poem: “The First Tooth”

“The First Tooth” from *The Works of Charles and Mary Lamb—Volume 3* by Charles and Mary Lamb. In the public domain.

- 12** The correct answer is H (The gardener picked a single rose to add to a vase of flowers).

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.4.1.6.9 The student will determine the correct meaning of words with multiple meanings in context. [Also assesses LA.4.1.6.6 The student will identify shades of meaning in related words (e.g., blaring, loud).]

The correct answer is H. *That single sound’s preferr’d* uses *single* as an adjective, describing how many sounds the baby uttered. *A single rose* tells how many roses the gardener picked.

13 The correct answer is B (pretend).

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.4.1.6.3 The student will use context clues to determine meanings of unfamiliar words.

The correct answer is B. Two context clues help show that *mimic* means *pretend*. The authors use a comparison with use of the conjunction *yet*: *He cannot walk, yet if he put With mimic motion*. The next line, *As if he thought, he were advancing*, shows that he is not actually performing the motion, but merely pretending to do so.

14 The correct answer is H (Both are in the same family).

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.4.1.7.7 The student will compare and contrast elements in multiple texts (e.g., setting, characters, problems).

The correct answer is H. The reader can infer that the baby and the speaker are in the same family because the speaker compares the attention that the baby receives from others around them to the lack of attention for themselves. He *Has a tiny tooth . . . I have got a double row . . . Yet no one cares for mine at all . . . that single sound's preferr'd To all the words that I can say*. The baby's *mimic motion* is *prized more than my best dancing*. The people around would typically be family members. In addition, reference to *the house* is made in the first line of the poem, which indicates they live in the same place.

15 The correct answer is C (jealous of the baby brother).

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.4.2.1.2 The student will identify and explain the elements of plot structure, including exposition, setting, character development, problem/resolution, and theme in a variety of fiction.

The correct answer is C. The reader can identify that the speaker is jealous through comparisons that show dismay for the lack of attention she receives compared to the baby. *Just because the infant boy Has a tiny tooth to show . . . Yet no one cares for mine at all. He can say but half a word, Yet that single sound's preferr'd. He cannot walk, yet if he pretended to, it would be prized more than my best dancing.*



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