

Practice Test

English Language Arts Reading Comprehension

GRADE 7

Student Name

School Name

District Name



This is a practice test. Your responses to practice test questions must be recorded on your Practice Test Answer Document.

Mark only one answer for each multiple-choice question. If you are not sure of the answer, choose the answer you think is best.

HOW TO ANSWER OPEN-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- **Make sure that your response is CLEAR, COMPLETE, and ACCURATE.**
- **Provide enough IMPORTANT DETAILS from the selection to completely support your response.**

Reading Comprehension

DIRECTIONS

This practice test contains one reading selection with two multiple-choice questions and one open-response question. Mark your answers to these questions in the spaces provided on page 5 of your Practice Test Answer Document.

Even in an age of technology, humans have a special relationship with nature and can learn much from it. Read the following tall tale to see why Fred Jennes, a veteran woods guide, has so much respect for bears. Use information from the tall tale to answer the questions that follow.

Why I Never Shoot Bears

by Fred Jennes

- 1 Fred Jennes, veteran woods guide of Greenville, Maine, tells this tall tale and swears by all the Bibles in Piscataquis County that it is gospel truth:
- 2 “Do you know why I don’t kill bears?” he asked. “No! Well, it’s this way. Three years ago this June I was on a fishing trip up to Grand Lake. I had been out on the water pretty nearly all of one day and, getting tired, paddled back to camp. I hauled the canoe up on the sandy beach and started for the shack.
- 3 “When I got within about 100 feet of the place I saw the front door was open. I peeked in. There stood a big black bear just pulling the cork out of my molasses jug with his teeth. Out came the sticky syrup all over the floor. Bruin* lapped up some of it and then rubbed his right paw into the rest—smearing it all over.
- 4 “So I crept around behind the camp, stuck my head in the window and yelled. He shot through the door like a bullet and headed for the lake. I never saw such an odd gait on a bear before—sort of mixture of running and galloping. And all on three legs. He was holding up the paw daubed with molasses.
- 5 “From where I stood it looked as if the critter had sat down on the shore and was holding his sweetened paw up to the air. It was June and the air was full of flies, mosquitoes and black midges. I could see that they were swarming around that molasses foot. Soon it was covered with flies feasting on that stuff.
- 6 “Suddenly he waded out in the water and stood up. He was in to his shoulders. He placed the sweetened paw down close to the surface and the next thing I saw a fine trout jump clear of the water at those flies.
- 7 “Every time a fish leaped clear of the water, Bruin would give it a cuff that sent it ashore and far up the beach.
- 8 “Finally as he saw the pile of trout on the sand he seemed to think he had enough. He waded ashore lapping off the insects and I expected he would sit down and gobble every fish. I recalled that all I had caught that day was two small fish.
- 9 “Well, sir, he had a fine feed, and when he had eaten half a dozen fine big trout, he paused, looked over at the bushes where I was and actually laid the remaining fish in a row. Then he ambled off up the shore and oddly enough kept looking back over his shoulder.

* *Bruin* — what Jennes named the big black bear

Reading Comprehension

- 10 “I walked down to the beach and true enough there were half a dozen wonderful trout. At the edge of the woods the bear stopped and was standing up. As loud as I could, I yelled, ‘Thanks, old man!’ Do you know he actually waved a paw at me and dove into the thicket. I honestly think he left me those fish to pay for my spilled molasses. No, *sir*, I never shoot bears.”

“Why I Never Shoot Bears”, from ANGLING IN AMERICA by Charles E. Goodspeed. Copyright, 1939 by Charles E. Goodspeed; copyright © renewed 1967 by George T. Goodspeed. Reprinted by permission of Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

- 1 According to the tall tale, what indicates that the bear had left the fish for Jennes?
- A. The bear left the fish in Jennes’ shack.
 - B. The bear batted the fish onto the shore.
 - C. The bear waved his paw to Jennes.
 - D. The bear cleaned up the spilled molasses.

- 2 Reread paragraphs 3 and 4. Which of the following phrases provides the **best** context clue for the word *daubed* as it is used in paragraph 4?
- A. lapped up
 - B. smeared it all over
 - C. headed for the lake
 - D. saw such an odd gait

Reading Comprehension

Question 3 is an open-response question.

- Read the question carefully.
- Explain your answer.
- Add supporting details.
- Double-check your work.

Write your answer to question 3 in the space provided on page 5 of your Practice Test Answer Document.

- 3 Based on the tall tale, describe how the bear behaves like a human. Use relevant and specific information from the tall tale to support your answer.

MASSACHUSETTS COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Grade 7 English Language Arts

Practice Test Answer Document

<p>School Name: _____</p> <p>District Name: _____</p> <p>Last Name of Student: _____</p> <p>First Name of Student: _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Marking Instructions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use a No. 2 pencil only.• Do not use ink, ballpoint, or felt tip pens.• Make solid marks that fill the circles completely.• Erase cleanly any marks you wish to change.• Make no stray marks on this form.• Do not fold, tear, or mutilate this form.
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