

# Practice Test

## English Language Arts Reading Comprehension

**GRADE 10**

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Student Name

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School Name

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District Name



Massachusetts Department of  
**ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY  
EDUCATION**

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 4 of your Practice Test Answer Document.

*The speaker of the following poem looks out onto a moonlit field of snow. Read the poem and answer the questions that follow.*

### DECEMBER MOON

- Before going to bed  
After a fall of snow  
I look out on the field  
Shining there in the moonlight  
5 So calm, untouched and white  
Snow silence fills my head  
After I leave the window.
- Hours later near dawn  
When I look down again  
10 The whole landscape has changed  
The perfect surface gone  
Criss-crossed and written on  
Where the wild creatures ranged  
While the moon rose and shone.
- 15 Why did my dog not bark?  
Why did I hear no sound  
There on the snow-locked ground  
In the tumultuous dark?
- How much can come, how much can go  
20 When the December moon is bright,  
What worlds of play we'll never know  
Sleeping away the cold white night  
After a fall of snow.

—May Sarton

“December Moon” by May Sarton, from *Coming into Eighty*. Copyright © 1994 by May Sarton. Reprinted by permission of W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.

# Reading Comprehension

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- 1 What is the **main** purpose of the first stanza?
- A. It describes a universal experience.
  - B. It introduces the speaker's conflict.
  - C. It establishes the mood created by the setting.
  - D. It raises the questions to be answered by the poem.

- 2 Read line 21 of the poem in the box below.

What worlds of play we'll never know

- To what does the line **most likely** refer?
- A. dreams that are forgotten
  - B. places that are not visited
  - C. opportunities that are missed
  - D. ideas that are not understood

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**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 4 of your Practice Test Answer Document.**

- 3 Explain how the speaker's perspective changes throughout the four stanzas of the poem. Support your answer with relevant and specific details from the poem.

# MASSACHUSETTS COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

## Grade 10 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;"><b>Marking Instructions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use a No. 2 pencil only.</li><li>• Do not use ink, ballpoint, or felt tip pens.</li><li>• Make solid marks that fill the circles completely.</li><li>• Erase cleanly any marks you wish to change.</li><li>• Make no stray marks on this form.</li><li>• Do not fold, tear, or mutilate this form.</li></ul>
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**NO TEST MATERIAL  
ON THIS PAGE**

