



These new public release items for MSA Reading are practice items only. These items do not represent a full MSA Reading test. In addition, these items do not cover all of the eligible VSC objectives, nor do they reflect all possible types of items for any one particular objective.

Continue to page 2 MSA Public Release Items →



MSA

MARYLAND SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

GRADE

3



READING PUBLIC RELEASE

Release Date: March 2009

PEARSON

DIRECTIONS

Read the sentence in the box. Then choose the answer in which the underlined word is used in the same way. Mark the space for the answer you have chosen.

1

May Sammy come outside to play after school?

In which sentence does the word play mean the same as in the sentence above?

- (A) Jackie's play train moves very fast.
- (B) My sister is learning how to play the piano.
- (C) Sonia has an important part in this year's school play.
- (D) I had to do homework before I could play with my friends.

2

Did you remember to brush your teeth before going to bed?

In which sentence does the word brush mean the same as in the sentence above?

- (A) The farmer's field is filled with scratchy brush.
- (B) Keep your brush clean by washing it with soap and water.
- (C) Before coming inside, brush the dirt off your pants and coat.
- (D) I was almost hurt when I had a close brush with a big, mean dog.

3

The new bridge will make it easy for people to cross the river.

In which sentence does the word cross mean the same as in the sentence above?

- (A) Be sure to look both ways before you cross the street.
- (B) I will cross the chores off my list as I finish each one.
- (C) The map shows the spot where the two streets cross each other.
- (D) The girl felt cross when her baby brother broke her new toy.

4

Bike riders pass the playground when they take the path around the park.

In which sentence does the word pass mean the same as in the sentence above?

- (A) Anne is sure she will pass the spelling test tomorrow.
- (B) I pass the library on my way to school every day.
- (C) Sam asked Jake to pass him the ball during the game.
- (D) Time away from school always seems to pass too quickly.



DIRECTIONS

As you read each sentence, use the other words in the sentence to help you figure out what the underlined word means. Then mark the space for the answer you have chosen.

5

Sarah felt timid at her new school because she did not know her classmates.

Timid means —

- (A) calm
- (B) eager
- (C) happy
- (D) shy

7

Janet felt miserable when her best friend Luke moved to a different town.

Miserable means —

- (A) curious
- (B) foolish
- (C) unhappy
- (D) unkind

6

As she crossed the busy street, the little girl felt secure because she held her father's hand.

What does secure mean?

- (A) safe
- (B) wise
- (C) excited
- (D) cheerful

8

The sudden rainstorm made us scurry to get indoors so we would not get wet.

What does scurry mean?

- (A) walk carefully
- (B) move quickly
- (C) step quietly
- (D) hop easily



DIRECTIONS

Read each question. Look at the underlined letter or letters and the underlined word in the question. The underlined letter or letters stand for a sound in the underlined word. Decide which of the other three words has the same sound in it. Then mark the space for the answer you have chosen.

9

In which word does the letter a have the same sound as it does in the word paper?

- (A) apple
- (B) baby
- (C) have

11

In which word does the letter e have the same sound as it does in the word began?

- (A) delight
- (B) explain
- (C) twenty

10

In which word does the letter g have the same sound as it does in the word forgot?

- (A) giant
- (B) manage
- (C) signal



DIRECTIONS Read each question and choose the best answer. Then mark the space for the answer you have chosen.

12

The en in sharpen means the same as the en in —

- (A) harden
- (B) pencil
- (C) hen

14

The or in visitor means the same as the or in —

- (A) color
- (B) harbor
- (C) sailor

13

The pre in pretest means the same as the pre in —

- (A) press
- (B) prepay
- (C) president





**DO
NOT
WRITE
ON
THIS
PAGE**



DIRECTIONS Read this invitation to a special party. Then answer Numbers 15 through 23.

You Are Invited!

What: A Grand Opening Party
Why: To celebrate the opening of

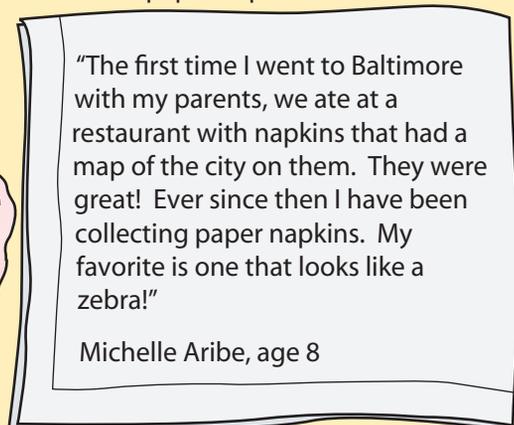
Amazing Collections!

When: Friday, July 14th
 7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.
Where: Rockburg Children’s Museum
 1905 Baker Street
Who: Come one, come all!
Cost: Free

“Amazing Collections” is a new show that will open at the Rockburg Children’s Museum on Saturday, July 15th. The show will run through October 15th. Come to the grand opening party to celebrate this great new show!

- 2 Meet many young collectors and ask them about their collections. Chantz Dacus will tell you about his world-class stamp collection. Rebecca Van Meter will also be there with her collection of old and unusual buttons. You will also see collections of toy cars, stuffed animals, dolls, and even shoelaces!

There will be kids with collections of things that other people might put in the trash. Paul Johnson collects candy wrappers. Michelle Aribe has a collection of over 500 paper napkins!



- 4 Would you like to start a collection of your own? We can help you decide what to collect and how to get started. We can even give you ideas about the best way to display your collection for everyone to see!

Bring your friends and family to a great party and help open “Amazing Collections.” There will be food, fun, and prizes for everyone. It will be the world’s best party!



15

The box “You Are Invited!” is important because it —

- (A) helps a reader understand how collecting works
- (B) tells about the Rockburg Children’s Museum
- (C) gives all of the main facts about the party
- (D) explains how to get to Baker Street



16

Explain why the museum’s show is called “Amazing Collections.” In your response, use information from the invitation that helps to explain your ideas. Write your answer in the box below.

17

How is paragraph 2 organized?

- (A) by giving the main idea and supporting details
- (B) by explaining differences between two things
- (C) by telling a problem and a solution
- (D) by putting events in time order

18

Read this sentence from paragraph 4 of the invitation.

We can even give you ideas about the best way to display your collection for everyone to see!

In this sentence, the word display means —

- (A) clean
- (B) describe
- (C) draw
- (D) show

Reading Comprehension**19**

After reading this invitation, what can you conclude about starting a collection? In your response, use information from the invitation that helps to explain your conclusion. Write your answer in the box below.



20

The last paragraph of this invitation probably makes a reader feel —

- (A) brave
- (B) excited
- (C) helpful
- (D) proud

21

From the information in this invitation, a reader can tell that —

- (A) children have many different kinds of collections
- (B) children often have trouble starting a collection
- (C) the best day of the week to go to a party is Friday
- (D) the Rockburg Children's Museum is open every day



Reading Comprehension**22**

Explain how the author makes this invitation interesting to read. In your response, use information from the invitation that supports your explanation. Write your answer in the box below.



23

Which of these sentences from this invitation is an opinion?

- (A) The show will run through October 15th.
- (B) Michelle Aribe has a collection of over 500 paper napkins!
- (C) We can help you decide what to collect and how to get started.
- (D) It will be the world's best party!



DIRECTIONS

Read this story about a girl named Beth and her grandma. Then answer Numbers 24 through 33.

A Real Grandma

by Joan Strauss

Grandma wasn't like the grandmas Beth saw in books. Those grandmas were in the kitchen with aprons on, baking cookies. They sat in rocking chairs with cats in their laps.

Beth's grandma wore jeans. Instead of a cat, she had a yellow Lab named Sunny.

Beth wondered, *Is my grandma a real grandma?*

"Can we bake cookies?" Beth asked.

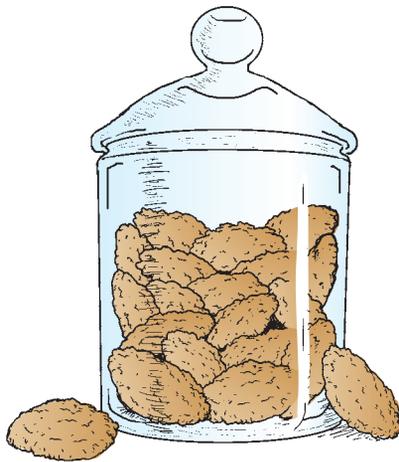
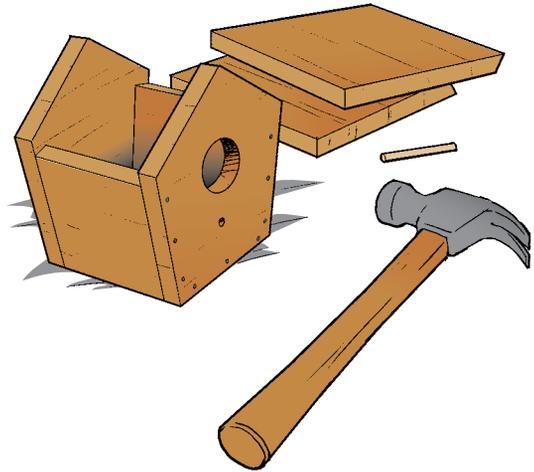
"When we're not so busy," Grandma said, "we'll bake oatmeal cookies with raisins. They're my favorite."

"Why can't we bake them today?" Beth asked.

"Today we're taking Sunny to cheer up the people in the nursing home," Grandma said.

The people in the nursing home liked playing with Sunny. But there was no time to bake cookies.

The next time Beth visited Grandma she asked, "Can we bake cookies today?"



"We're going to build a bluebird house today," said Grandma. "Spring's here. The bluebirds need a house."

Beth had fun hammering nails and painting the bluebird house. It took the whole day. There wasn't any time left to bake cookies.

At Beth's next visit, she and Grandma rode their bikes through the park. By the time they got back, it was too late to bake cookies.

“Grandma’s always too busy to bake cookies,” said Beth. “I wish I had a real grandma.”

“She is a real grandma,” Mom said. “She’s just a busy grandma. She doesn’t have time to bake.”

Beth sat quietly, her chin propped in her hand. She smiled. “I know! Since I have time, I’ll bake cookies for Grandma, oatmeal cookies with raisins. Will you help me, Mom?”

“What a good idea. Of course, I’ll help.”

Beth mixed the cookie batter and stirred in the raisins. She dropped spoonfuls of batter onto the cookie sheets.

Mom slid the pans into the oven. The cookies turned a beautiful golden brown. Beth and Mom each ate one. Beth packed the rest in a shiny cookie tin for Grandma.

- 19 When they arrived at Grandma’s house, she was digging in her garden. Beth jumped out of Mom’s car. She held out the cookie tin. “Grandma, I’ve got a surprise for you!”

Grandma leaned back on her heels then stood up. “A surprise? For me?” Grandma opened the tin without even taking off her muddy gardening gloves. “Oatmeal cookies with raisins! How wonderful!”

“I baked them for you,” Beth said.

“That’s even more wonderful.” Grandma hugged and kissed Beth.

Beth snuggled into Grandma’s arms. She didn’t care about Grandma’s muddy gloves. Grandma might not be like the grandmas in books, but Beth knew her grandma *was* a real grandma.

24

What is Beth's main problem in this story?

- (A) She does not like being late all the time.
- (B) Her grandma does not want to read with her.
- (C) She does not know how to bake oatmeal cookies.
- (D) Her grandma does not have time to bake cookies with her.

25

How can a reader tell that Grandma probably lives near Beth?

- (A) Beth seems to visit Grandma often.
- (B) Grandma often visits Beth and her mom.
- (C) The narrator says that Beth lives near Grandma.
- (D) Grandma and Beth's mom talk to each other every day.



26

Explain how the author makes this story seem real. In your response, use details from the story that support your explanation. Write your answer in the box below.



Reading Comprehension

27

An important message in this story is that —

- (A) nature is full of beautiful things
- (B) doing things for others brings happiness
- (C) outdoor exercise is fun for everyone
- (D) working in a garden is harder than baking

28

Which of these details is most important to this story?

- (A) rocking chairs
- (B) a nursing home
- (C) oatmeal cookies
- (D) a bluebird house



29

What will probably happen the next time Beth visits her grandma? In your response, use details from the story that support your answer. Write your answer in the box below.



Reading Comprehension

30

Why does Beth wonder if her grandma is a real grandma?

- (A) Beth does not know her grandma very well.
- (B) Grandma does not have time to spend with Beth.
- (C) Beth does not have fun at her grandmother's house.
- (D) Grandma does not act like the grandmothers in Beth's books.

31

What other title would best show a main idea of "A Real Grandma"?

- (A) Being Different Can Be Good!
- (B) Enjoying the Great Outdoors
- (C) New Bicycles for Everyone!
- (D) Cookies Are Good to Eat



32

Explain what Grandma’s words and actions in this story show about her. In your response, use details from the story that support your explanation. Write your answer in the box below.



Reading Comprehension

33

Read this sentence from paragraph 19 of the story.

Beth jumped out of Mom's car.

In paragraph 19, the word jumped shows that Beth is —

- (A) afraid
- (B) careless
- (C) excited
- (D) surprised





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“Amazing Collections!”—commissioned piece

“A Real Grandma”: © Joan Strauss

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