



New York State Testing Program

English

Language Arts Test

Listening Selection

Grade **4**

January 7–11, 2008

This listening selection is to be used in administering Book 2 of the English Language Arts Test. The entire selection is to be read aloud twice to the students. For complete directions, please follow the instructions in the *Teacher's Directions*.

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Listening Selection***The Voice of Rigo***

Rigo = R ē · gō

by Leslie Hall

Rigo had a loud voice. People were always telling Rigo to be quiet. His mother would tell him to use his quiet voice inside the house because the baby was asleep. His father would ask him to speak quietly in the car. His teacher would tell him to talk quietly so he would not bother everyone who was working.

Not only did he have a loud voice, but Rigo liked to talk. He liked to talk a lot. He liked to yell and shout. Sometimes he just yelled, “Hey!” for no reason. He liked the sound of his very loud voice. But not everyone felt the same way.

When Rigo shouted good-bye when he left for school, his mother shook her head. “Rigo! Be quiet!”

When Rigo’s father drove him to school, Rigo said, “Hey! There’s Chris!” He pointed at his friend, who was walking to school.

Rigo’s father shook his head. “Rigo, use a quiet voice in the car.”

At school, Rigo’s teacher talked to him three times about using his quiet voice. Later, Rigo had to sit by himself for a while. His teacher wanted him to practice being quiet. Rigo had to sit quietly for five minutes. It felt like five hours. Or five days. When the five minutes were up, Rigo went to his desk and sat quietly. It was not easy.

After school, Rigo was waiting for his father. He saw Chris again. “Hey!” he yelled. “Chris! Hey!”

The principal was walking by. Rigo was sure he was going to get in trouble for his loud voice. He looked quickly at the ground. Maybe the principal would keep walking.

The principal stopped and looked at Rigo. Rigo was looking at the ground.

“That is some voice you have,” said the principal.

Rigo did not say anything. He was waiting for the trouble that was sure to come.

Go On

“You should be an actor with that voice,” said the principal. “You would be great on the stage. Everyone would be able to hear you. Even the people who sat in the very back.”

“An actor?” said Rigo. He could be on stage. He could be an actor. The idea sounded very good to him.

“Oh, yes,” said the principal. “Actors have to use very loud voices when they are on stage. But you know, when they are not on stage, they only use very quiet voices. They save their loud voice for the stage.”

Rigo saw his father. He said good-bye to the principal and ran to get in the car. When his father said hello, Rigo said hello, too. He used such a quiet voice that his father had to ask him to say it again.

STOP



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