



New York State Testing Program

English

Language Arts Test

Book 3

Grade

6

January 14–18, 2008

Name _____

TIPS FOR TAKING THE TEST

Here are some suggestions to help you do your best:

- Be sure to read carefully all the directions in the test book.
- Plan your time.
- Read each question carefully and think about the answer before writing your response.

In this test, you will be writing about texts that you will be listening to or reading. Your writing will be scored on

- how clearly you organize your writing and express what you have learned
- how accurately and completely you answer the questions being asked
- how well you support your responses with examples or details from the texts
- how correctly you use grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and paragraphing



Whenever you see this symbol, be sure to plan and check your writing.

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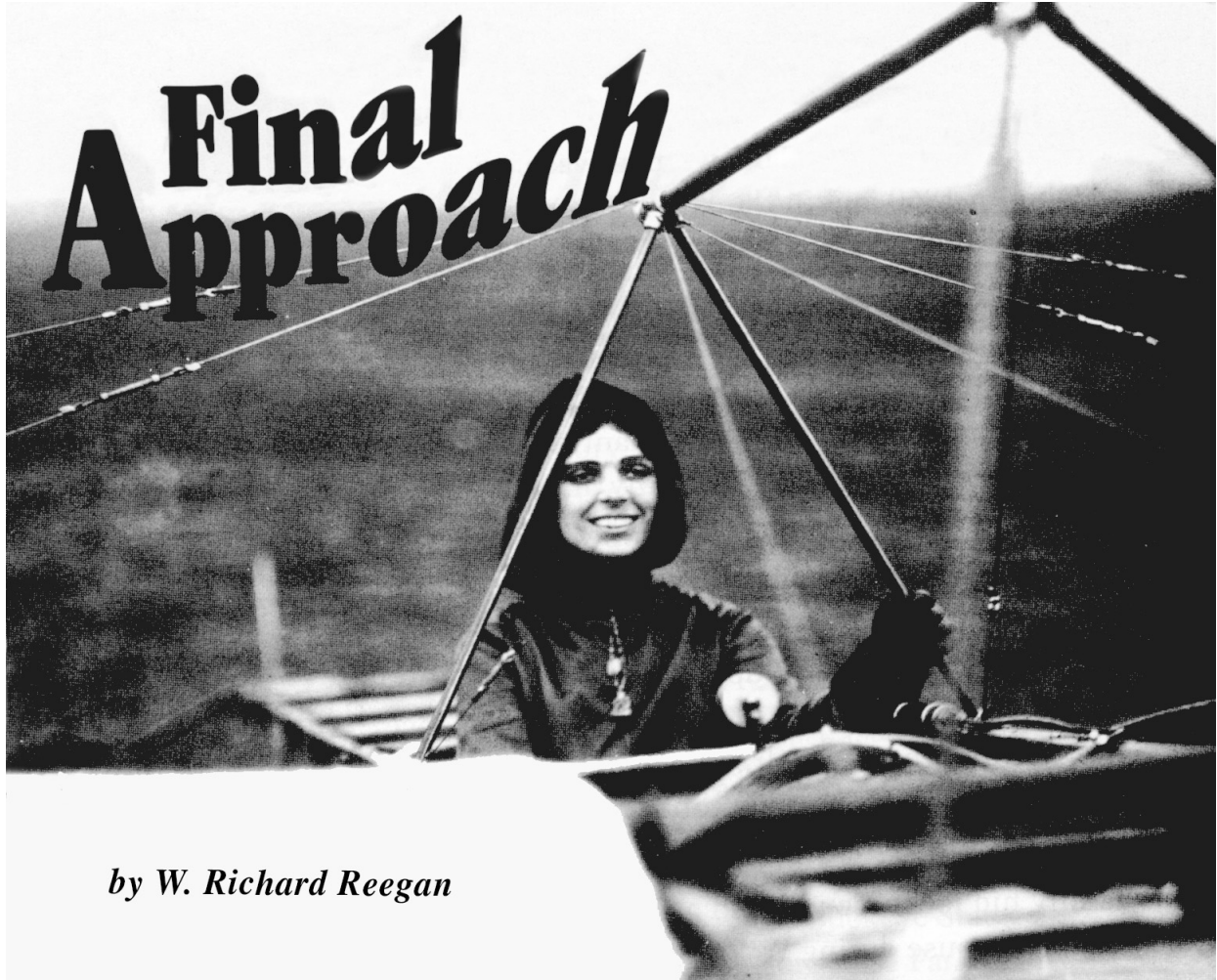


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Reading and Writing***D***irections

In this part of the test, you are going to read an article called “Final Approach” about pilot Harriet Quimby and another article called “Dreams of Flying” about pilot Bessie Coleman. You will answer questions 31 through 34 and write about what you have read. You may look back at the articles as often as you like.

Go On



Harriet Quimby was lost. Flying in dangerous, April storm clouds without benefit of instruments, she could only hope she was still over the English Channel.

What if her calculations were wrong? Suppose instead of heading toward the coast of France, she was using her dwindling fuel supply to carry her farther and farther out to sea? Then a crash into the deep waters of a raging ocean was only moments away.

The engine sput-sputtered a warning. Quimby, a slight woman, her short black hair whipping in the wind, tightened a black-gloved fist around the control stick. Taking a deep breath, she whispered something softly, then jammed the stick forward. The tiny craft dropped like a rock.

The engine began to scream as it picked up speed; the propeller seemingly spun in both directions faster. Something ripped. Wing fabric? The rip became a flapping sound, like a

snapping flag in a fierce wind. Would the wings stay on?

Punching through the last layer of clouds, Quimby tried to pull the stick back. The plane shuddered. Something was wrong. The Channel wasn't where it was supposed to be.

IT WAS TOO CLOSE!

Pull up, pull up. She pulled back harder on the stick. With the propeller slicing through the peaks of white-capped waves, the plane leveled off. Moments later, as Quimby tried to wipe her goggles, a patch of brown, sandy beach flashed by under the wing, then melted into green squares of rolling pasture. Fuel depleted, the engine snapped to a halt. In the eerie silence, Quimby set the plane down. Stunned French villagers, many of whom had never seen a plane before, watched the descent. One can only imagine what they thought as the silent craft dropped from a stormy sky with a woman at the controls.

Now Quimby, the first woman in U.S. history to have earned a pilot's license, was also the first woman to fly across the English Channel.

It was 1912.

Courageous, young Harriet Quimby, with little more than a box kite pulled by a primitive engine, had set world records. It was decades before Amelia Earhart and Charles Lindbergh would capture the media with their daring in modern aircraft. Quimby had not only

challenged the sky, but also had laughed at it. She left the tales of her courage, not for screaming headlines, but to be told only in the wind whispers of a wind-swept ocean.



Go On

31

Harriet Quimby was a remarkable woman. Complete the chart below by identifying **two** character traits that helped Harriet Quimby achieve what she did. Then, use details from the article to support the character traits you chose.

HARRIET QUIMBY

Character Trait	Supporting Detail from the Article

32

Why do you think Harriet Quimby’s flight is considered a remarkable achievement? Use details from the article to support your answer.

Dreams of Flying

by Mark Merfeld

Imagine a pilot who can make a plane twist and turn in the air, roll upside down, and tumble toward the ground before suddenly soaring back into the sky. Even in today's modern airplanes, this would take great skill and courage.

In 1922, however, it required much more, especially if you were an African American woman with little more than dreams. That was Bessie Coleman.

Bessie needed great skill and courage to fly, but it was her determination that carved her a place in American history.



A Tough Road

Being an African American woman during this time meant Bessie Coleman's journey was filled with roadblocks. As a child in Texas, Bessie's education was important, but difficult. She walked four miles a day to her school for black children. She had to interrupt her schooling each year during harvest season. Her family was poor, and she needed to pick cotton to earn money.

Bessie, however, was smart and worked hard. Her mother saw this. She encouraged Bessie to "make something of herself" by studying in school and following her dream, whatever that turned out to be.

Finding Her Dream

After graduating from high school, Bessie went to Chicago. While working there, she heard the stories of the aviators (pilots) who had returned from World War I. She was fascinated. She read everything she could about flying. She began to study the lives of people like Harriet Quimby, the first American woman to earn a pilot's license in 1911. Bessie soon knew what her dream was. She wanted to become a pilot—the first African American pilot.

There were many more challenges to overcome, however. Every flying school she tried to enter turned her down because she was an African American woman. Would this end her dream? Bessie was determined not to quit. She had a plan. She saved all the money she earned. She took a course to learn to speak French. Then, she traveled to France and enrolled in a flying school there.

Go On

In 1921, Bessie Coleman earned her international pilot's license, becoming the first licensed African American pilot. Then she took more lessons on how to do rolls and spins and loops in a plane. When she returned to the United States, she began her career as a "barnstormer." This meant she would perform flying stunts and parachute jumps at air shows across the country.

A New Dream

One dream had been reached. Bessie was now a pilot who was often called "the world's greatest woman flyer." But, as she traveled around the country, Bessie had a new dream. She wanted to buy her own plane and start a flying school for African American pilots. She wanted African Americans to have the opportunity to learn how to fly in this country.

This new dream faced obstacles too. In 1923, while testing a new plane, Bessie crashed and broke her leg and three ribs. Her spirit, however, was not broken. "Tell them all that as soon as I can walk I'm going to fly!" she announced.

A year later, she was flying again. She also gave speeches, encouraging young African Americans to follow their dreams and think about careers in flying or other areas of aviation.

Sadly, Bessie did not see her dream of opening a flying school come true during her lifetime. She was killed in an air crash in 1926 due to an engine failure.

Her spirit, however, inspired others to fulfill her dream. In 1929, three years after her death, William J. Powell started the Bessie Coleman Aero Clubs. These clubs trained African American pilots—just as Bessie had dreamed about doing.

33

In the article, Bessie Coleman had two dreams. She accomplished her first dream when she became the first licensed African American pilot. What was her second dream, and how was that dream fulfilled after her death? Use details from the article to support your answer.

Go On

Planning Page

You may PLAN your writing for question 34 here if you wish, but do NOT write your final answer on this page. Your writing on this Planning Page will NOT count toward your final score. Write your final answer on Pages 9 and 10.



Place Student Label Here



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