



New York State Testing Program

English

Language Arts Test

Book 3

Grade

4

January 12–16, 2009

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 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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Reading and Writing***D*irections**

In this part of the test, you are going to read a story called “Swan Song” and a passage called “After the Error.” You will answer questions 32 through 35 and write about what you have read. You may look back at the passages as often as you like.

Go On

Swan Song

written and illustrated by James Marshall

A cow was waiting at the bus stop minding her own business, when a frightened swan ran up to her.

“Help! Help!” cried the swan. “A fox is after me!”

“Oh dear,” said the cow. “That’s not good.”

“Do something!” cried the swan.

“Now calm down,” said the cow. “I will help, but you must do *exactly* as I say.”

A moment later a panting fox rounded the corner and skidded to a halt.

“Pardon me, madam,” he said, bowing low to the cow. “Did you by any chance see a swan pass this way?”

“Why do you ask?” said the cow.

“Er,” said the fox. “She’s a friend of mine, and I have a present for her.”

“No,” replied the cow. “I did not see your friend.”

The fox scratched his chin.

“Well, thanks all the same,” he said. “And by the way, that is an exquisite hat you are wearing.”

“Thank you,” said the cow. “It is new.”

“Ha, ha, ha!” sang out the swan. “It’s not a hat at all! It’s *me*! We fooled you! We fooled you!”

“Aha!” cried the fox.

And he leapt up and tried to snatch the swan from atop the cow’s head.

“Hold on tight!” called out the cow.

And with that she pulled up her skirts and tore off down the road at a tremendous clip, leaving behind the wicked fox coughing and wheezing in a cloud of dust. He was absolutely furious.



When they had gotten a safe distance away, the cow put the swan down.

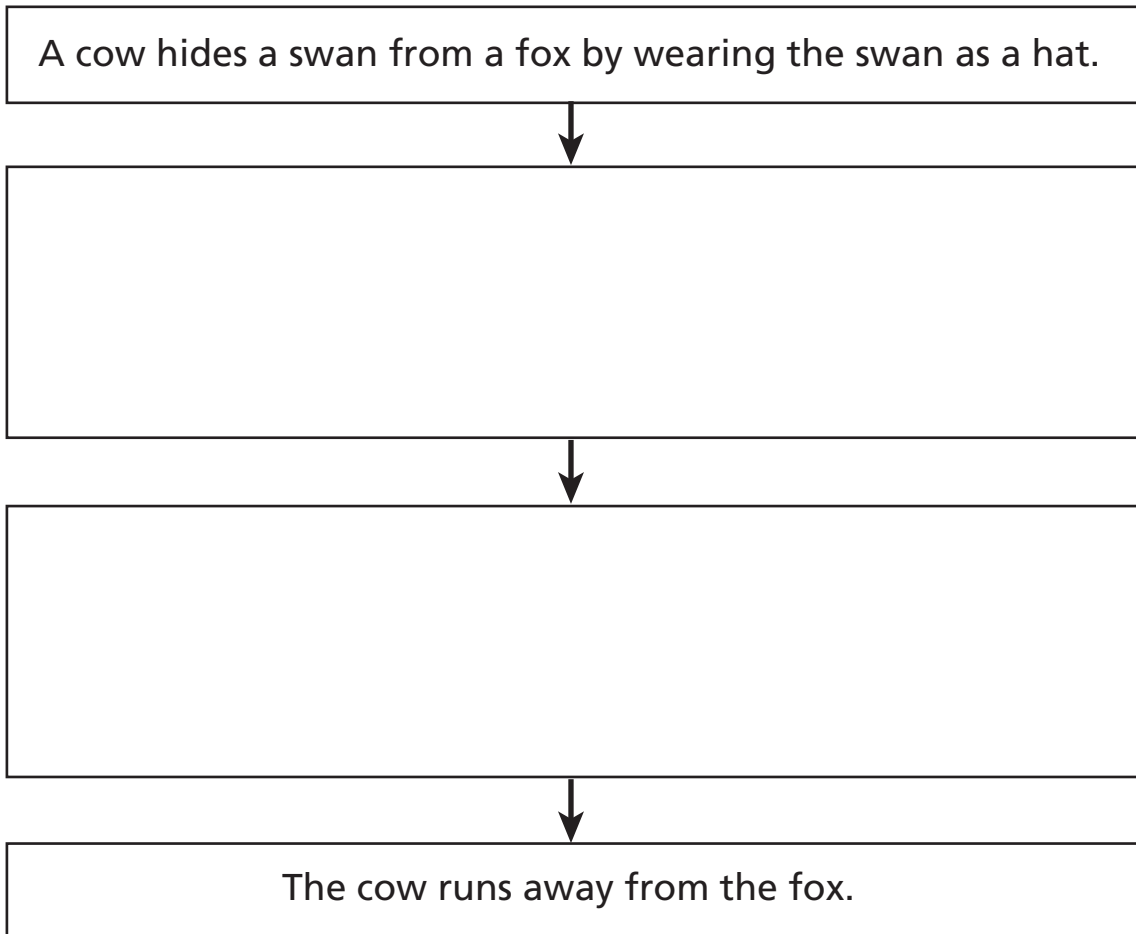
“You did not keep quiet as I instructed,” said the cow.

“Well my heavens,” said the swan. “I *had* to show that fox how smart we are.”

“Sometimes being *really* smart is knowing when to say nothing,” said the cow. “But I see that I was all wrong about you. I mistook you for a swan, when you are nothing but a silly goose.”

- 32** The chart below shows what happens in the story “Swan Song.” Complete the chart with details from the story in the order in which they happen.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE STORY



Go On

After the Error

by Jerry Spinelli

I first played organized baseball in the Norristown, Pennsylvania, Little League. I was second baseman for the Green Sox.

One day we were playing the Red Sox. I don't remember the inning, but I remember they had the bases loaded. And I remember exactly what happened next.

The batter hit a ground ball right at me. I crouched down, feet spread, glove ready, as I had been taught in baseball school. I could hear the ball crunching along the sandy ground. It hit my glove—but not the pocket. Instead, it glanced off the fat leather thumb and rolled on behind me.

My first error!

I was heartbroken. I stomped my foot. I pounded my fist in the stupid glove. I squeaked and whined. I did everything but flop down on my stomach and bawl like a baby.

When the inning was over and I slunk to the Green Sox bench, the manager was waiting for me. I thought he was going to console me. I thought he was going to say, "Tough luck, Jerry. Nice try." And he would take me in his arms and pat my head.

That's not what happened.

What he really did was glare angrily at me. And what he really said was, "Don't you ever do that again."

I thought he meant the error. I said, "I won't. I'll never miss another grounder as long as I live."

"Miss?" he said. "You'll miss lots. That's not the problem. It's what you did after. While you were standing there, the other team scored three runs."

He pointed his finger at me. "Next time you miss the ball, you turn around, you chase down the ball, and when you get it you do something good with it. You don't just stand there feeling sorry for yourself. Understand?"

I nodded. And I never forgot.

My manager was right. I've made lots of errors since then, both on and off the baseball field. And sometimes I just want to stand there feeling sorry for myself. It's then that I think of my old Little League manager, and I chase down my mistake and do something good with it.

33

In “After the Error,” why was the manager of Jerry’s team upset with him? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

34

How did Jerry act after he made the error? How has his manager’s advice changed the way Jerry has reacted to errors since then? Use details from “After the Error” to support your answer.

Go On

Planning Page

You may PLAN your writing for question 35 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 7 and 8.



Place Student Label Here



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