



Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills
8th Edition

Maze Benchmark

Grade 7

Student Materials

Name: _____

Date: _____

Practice Passage

Tom goes to a school far from his house. Every morning, he takes a school _____ to go to school. In the _____, he also takes a bus home.



Correct: _____

Incorrect: _____

Adjusted Score: _____

The Day the Sky Turned Black

My parents told me in July that the solar eclipse that was going to happen in August was a very rare event. A solar eclipse is when the _____ appears to completely blot out the _____. For this eclipse, in some parts _____ the United States the sun would completely covered by the moon, although _____ would only be a partial eclipse we live. After my parents mentioned _____, it seemed like everyone was talking it and I wanted to know _____, so I did some reading.

I _____ that in ancient times people were _____ terrified of full solar eclipses. Since _____ did not understand what was happening _____ the sun, people in many cultures _____ elaborate myths and stories to explain _____. Usually in these myths and stories _____ animal, dragon or demon would try _____ eat the sun. People

Keep going 

would go _____ and bang on drums or ring _____ until the animal or the demon

swallowing the sun and let it _____. Then they could relax again until

next eclipse, when they would have _____ rescue the sun all over again.

_____ imagined that when night suddenly fell _____ the middle of the day, the

would drop and the stars would _____ out. Babies, and people who

hadn't _____ about the eclipse, would weep and _____ with fear. Birds would fly

into _____ trees, cats would go out hunting, _____ dogs would curl up in their

places. Even though people now are _____ sophisticated to believe that a monster

beast had eaten or stolen the _____, a terrible feeling of impending evil _____ be felt

on the streets. Maybe _____ sounds weird, but I was excited _____ experience this feeling,

Keep going 

especially since I _____ it wouldn't last long. I thought _____ once the sunlight started to come _____, there would be a feeling of _____ triumphing over evil.

On the morning _____ the day of the eclipse, my _____ and I made a viewer out of a cereal box. We cut off _____ top, glued a piece of white _____ to the bottom, covered half the _____ with a piece of aluminum foil, _____ poked a hole in the foil with a pin. Then we had to _____.

When the eclipse started, we took _____ viewer out to the balcony, and _____ with our backs to the sun. _____ adjusted the viewer until the sun _____ through the _____ pinhole and made a _____ on the white paper on the _____ of the box. It was _____ very _____, and looked like if you had _____ a cookie with a circular cutter,

Keep going 

used the cutter to take a little chunk out of the side.

At the peak of the eclipse the sky turned a bit gray. Our cat noticed

notice whatsoever, and the construction in the alley continued with their

undeterred, as though nothing was happening. I was fascinated. I can't wait

to see another eclipse!

