



Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills
8th Edition

Maze Benchmark

Grade 3

Student Materials

Name: _____

Date: _____

Practice Passage

Tom goes to a school far from his house. Every morning, he takes a school

art
bus
work

 to go to school. In the

afternoon
library
morning

, he also takes a bus home.



Correct: _____

Incorrect: _____

Adjusted Score: _____

Brush Hogging

My name is Sarah, and I live on Riggerts Farm Road in

Stovepipe, Vermont. My favorite after-school activity is taking care plant read of

my chickens, Molly, Dolly, and Wally. Her My Your second favorite activity is

brush hogging he our them field.

A brush hog is like a in of tractor crossed with a lawn mower.

At It The has windows and a seat. You've got heard wrote to climb up to sit on a it so.

It makes a lot of noise and or than it shakes and rattles and belches music power smoke.

It's fun to ride in, and even nice tall more fun to drive.

People with land paper soup use a brush hog to clear as for the vegetation

Keep going 

from their fields. If you **don't
hadn't
isn't** brush hog every week, the weeds **and
since
yet**

saplings grow fast and tall. Before **their
us
you** know it, you'll have an entire

**engine
forest
ladder** growing in your back yard.

After **she'll
they'd
you're** done brush hogging the field looks **asleep
clean
hungry**. You

can now plow it and **plant
shout
view** good things to grow and eat. **So
Who
You** have the

tingling satisfied feeling of **a
it
on** job well done. Sometimes brush hogging

**makes
pushes
sends** you very hungry. You just want **now
to
when** go inside and make

yourself a **number
sandwich
tractor** and drink some cold water.

The **hats
meals
rules** of our house are, when you **play
sing
turn** ten, you can start

brush hogging **about
until
with** Mom or Dad. You have to **sit
try
walk** on their laps,

Keep going 

and you have **at to up** buckle in with a harness. You **can look say** put your hands on

the steering **dirt map wheel**, but you can't touch anything else. **If On The** key to the

brush hog is **boring hidden wooden** in a secret place in the **concert house store**.

You can see some interesting parts **as but of** nature while you are

brush hogging. **Large One Strong** day last week, I was brush **hogging jumping running** with Dad

when a fast, brown **animal lake road** ran in front of us, across **how our with** field and into

the woods. It **got made was** so quick I barely had time **as by to** see it. We decided to

stop **and but than** get out of the brush hog **at to up** follow it. Dad showed me how

also to well track its prints. The animal ran **down often since** the muddy hiking trail all

the **last out way** to the dock by the lake. **Its Me You** tracks went to the edge and

Keep going ►

disappeared
examined
hesitated

. A ripple on the water showed

always
unless
where

it had made a

splash.

“Congratulations,”

rode
said
took

Dad, pointing to something

swimming in

but
it
the

distance. “You just tracked your first baby moose!”



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The Secret Desert

My family lives in a two-story house on a dead-end street with a little forest where it ends. The trees there are all evergreen ground trees water. They

grow so close together you've come got made to turn sideways to get through.

It So To is always cool and dark in my one the forest.

One day, I left my bike purse room lying on its side and walked from into whole the

evergreens. My feet made no pain sound taste on the thick carpet of brown fur pine tower

needles. It was so still, I could helped was hear my own breath and even my so up heart

beating.

Finally, I came out down no of the cool and dark forest into any ever the hot

Keep going 

sun. I saw then that **him** **I** was standing on the edge of **a** **it** big hollow. As **so** **to**

far as I **could** **finally** see there was nothing but sand. **Half** **It** was a desert! **never** **Out**

I took off **but** **my** sweatshirt and tied it around my **bike** **head**, like a **with** **wood**

turban, to keep off **few** **the** blazing sun. I walked out into **as** **its** sand. As I **up** **the**

walked, I looked **around** **tired** for camels and palm trees, but **I** **no** only saw **when** **who**

tire tracks.

The tracks **did** **used** big. It looked like they'd been **heard** **made** by trucks. **were** **went**

Then there were some **engines** **springs** that were so deep they looked **like** **such** **while** **tracks**

they'd been made by a bulldozer. **But** **For** what were trucks and a bulldozer **Some**

coming
doing in a desert?
having

Keep going 

I walked for **any the what** seemed like a long time, but **many there when** seemed to be no end to **ever so this** desert. I was very hot and **boring thirsty useful**. I decided to turn around and **feel go mind** back to the cool evergreen forest. **Also Other When** I reached the shade of the **hat pine sand** trees, I was a little dizzy. **I No One** sat down for a few minutes **and in till** the coolness. Then I walked all **any such the** way through the forest, got on **its my some** bike, and rode slowly home.

That **amount night where** at supper I asked my dad **about over whole** the desert. I told him about **best his the** tire and bulldozer tracks I'd seen **as for out** in the middle. He said that **any this which** place was called a "Sand-Pit." Trucks **drank forgot used** to go there to dig out **and how if** haul away tons of sand. Builders **sat tasted used** the sand to

Keep going ►

make cement to **build** clean houses on. He also said that **far** our house

foundation had probably used cement **called** made with sand from the Sand-
was

Pit.

“Oh?” **him** I murmured. But I wasn’t really paying **attention** respects weather . My
us

dad always had interesting things **of** so say about just about everything. I
to

simply felt disappointed that not only was my secret desert not a secret, it

wasn’t even a real desert.



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On the Trail

The last time I visited my cousins out West, we went on a trail ride.

A trail ride is when you **ride** horses on a trail. I'd been **also** pony rides
skate **next**
toss **on**

before, so I wasn't **hungry** about riding a horse.
popular
worried

We got **for** at dawn and had a big **breakfast** before going out to
him **football**
up **weather**

ride. When **his** got to the barn, the horses **lived** already saddled and
my **said**
we **were**

waiting. They stamped **mine** hooves and neighed at us as **far** walked
people **its**
their **we**

over to them. I could **bake** my heart beating. It was exciting **so** be
feel **to**
melt **us**

setting out on such a **big** adventure. I still didn't feel afraid, **but** my
pink **the**
slimy **with**

mouth got a little dry **also** the excitement.
from
never

Keep going 

The horses we were **going**
sleeping to ride had been chosen for **my**
staying **she** .
us

One of my cousins got a **either**
former gray horse named Dove, and the **inner**
pretty **other**

cousin got a shiny dark brown **goat**
horse called Bill. Mine was called
truck

Freckles, **around**
because she had rusty brown spots all **mind**
nearby **over** her white coat.
same

Freckles had a **green**
oval look that reminded me of my **frisbee**
tired **grandma** on a hot
pickles

day. Our trail **church**
guide called Freckles a veteran, which I **chose**
train **figured** meant
washed

she was old. I didn't **know**
list why they'd chosen this horse for **as**
mark **ever** to
me

ride, but I didn't mind. **Here**
So were all in a good mood **praising**
We **starting** out on
tasting

the trail. The sunlight **came**
owed hot, but the air was cool **and**
was **how** tasted sweet.
was

Riding Freckles felt like **being**
putting on a boat and a slow-motion
skating

Keep going ►

movie
see-saw
whistle

at the same time. Very slow-motion!

All
Two
Way

the horses walked

in a line

along
direct
super

the trail. Freckles and I came

last
round
simple

. Slowly we got

further and further

behind
maybe
sideways

the others. The guide turned around

and
much
the

called to Freckles. I tried to

encourage
picture
swallow

her by flapping my legs

against

her
no
under

sides, but she would not be

booked
frowned
rushed

. She took her time

putting one

bike
hoof
nail

in front of the other until

few
the
we

reached a turn in the

trail.

Least
Some
Then

, she suddenly lifted her head and

flashed
spent
started

to trot. The

guide shouted at

and
her
than

, but Freckles didn't stop. She ran

alike
float
past

all the

other horses. I was

bouncing
judging
skating

up and down in the saddle.

A
I
Us

was afraid

Keep going 

I would fall off! **All** **Both** I could think of to do **ran** **sat** to let go of the reins
Why **was**

and **free** hold tightly onto the saddle with **both** **guilty** hands! My cousins
into **other**

couldn't help laughing **at** **it** how funny I looked.
so

Freckles ran **all** **each** the way back to the barn **and** **dark** stopped next to
such **how**

her stall. I guess she wasn't so worn-out after all!

