



Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills  
8<sup>th</sup> Edition

*Maze* Progress Monitoring

Grade 6

Administration Directions and Scoring Keys

Examiner script

**I am going to give you a worksheet. When you get your worksheet, please write your name at the top and put your pencil down.**

(Hand out the Maze student worksheets. Make sure students have written their names down before proceeding.)

**You are going to read a passage with some words missing from it. For each missing word you will see a box with three words in it. Your job is to circle the word you think makes the most sense in the context of the passage. Let’s look at the Practice Passage together. Listen as I read.**

**Tom goes to a school far from his house. Every morning, he takes a school (pause) art, bus, work (pause) to go to school.**

**Let’s stop there. Let’s circle the word “bus” because I think “bus” makes the most sense here. Listen to how that sentence sounds now.**

**Every morning, he takes a school bus to go to school.**

**Now it’s your turn. Read the next sentence silently to yourself. When you come to a box, read all the words in the box and circle the word that makes the most sense to you. When you are done, put your pencil down.**

(Allow up to 30 seconds for students to complete the example and put their pencils down.)

If necessary, after 30 seconds say **Put your pencil down.** As soon as all students have their pencils down, say **Good job.**

**Now listen. In the (pause) afternoon, library, morning (pause), he also takes a bus home. You should have circled “afternoon” because “afternoon” makes the most sense. Listen. In the afternoon, he also takes a bus home.**

**Okay, when I say “Begin,” turn the page and start reading the passage silently. Start on the page with the title. When you come to a box, read all the words in the box and circle the word that makes the most sense in the passage. You will stop when you come to a stop sign or I say Stop. Ready? Begin.**  
Start the timer.

At the end of 3 minutes, stop the timer and say **Stop. Put your pencils down.**

Reminders

Start timer	Start the timer after you say <b>Begin</b> .
Prompts	If a student starts reading the passage out loud, say <b>Please read the passage silently.</b> (Repeat as often as needed.)  If a student skips an entire page, say. <b>Please be sure not to skip pages.</b>  If a student stops working, say <b>Please keep going until I tell you to stop. Just do your best work.</b> (Repeat as often as needed.)
Discontinue	There is no discontinue rule. Every student should be encouraged to try their best until three minutes have passed.

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## The Portal

What I am about to tell you is a secret. Shh! There is a portal in **my** house that 1  
swallows things up so **completely** they can never be recovered. You **probably** have a 3  
similar one in yours. **Lots** of my belongings end up in **the** portal: pens and USB 5  
keys, hair **ties**, and socks; books, homework, hockey pucks, **and** tennis balls; and 7  
even larger things **like** sweatshirts, gym shorts, umbrellas, and sneakers. 8  
**My** friend Sarah has a portal in **her** house that must be much bigger **than** 11  
the one in mine, because it **sucked** in her bicycle. It has also **swallowed** a trumpet, 13  
some pom-poms, and her **favorite** pair of riding boots. 14  
My friend Jack's **house** has a smaller portal that only **takes** pencils and erasers, 16  
pocket change, or **sometimes** a plastic comb. 17

Keep going



My friend Lin's **house** has a portal that only swallows **up** electronic

19

equipment. It has already swallowed **two** new smart phones, a laptop computer, **and**

21

a second-hand iPad.

My friend Caitlin's **house** has the strangest portal I've ever **heard** of. Caitlin's

23

portal only swallows her **school** essays, textbooks, and homework assignments. What's

24

**more**, it always swallows the essays and **homework** assignments on the morning they

26

are **due**.

27

I am not sure what happens **to** things that get sucked into the **portal**, but I have

29

always imagined that **it** leads to another dimension where lost **things** are consumed

31

like natural resources. Or **maybe** an alternate version of me in **some** other universe

33

Keep going



uses them in her **daily** life the same way I use **them** in mine — or, at least, the 35

**way** I used them before they got **sucked** into the portal. 37

Unfortunately, the portal **never** has a fixed location. If it **did**, it would be 39

much easier to **manage**, as I could simply be careful **to** avoid putting objects near it. 41

No, **the** portal is always a roving portal, **which** may be anywhere at any given 43

**time**. 44

Furthermore, it is invisible. Who knows? **There** might be a portal right next 45

**to** you at this very moment. You **would** never know until it sucked in **your** 48

pencil or something else you happened **to** put down too near it. 49

My **portal** occasionally swallows up overdue library books. **But** if your 51

Keep going 

parents are like mine, **they** will never believe this no matter **how** clearly you try to 53

explain it. **So**, if you get a notice from **the** library that a book you've checked 55

**out** is overdue, you've just got to **go** through the motions of searching for 57

**it**. It doesn't matter where you look: **under** the bed, in the garage, in **the** 60

laundry room, or behind the bookshelf **where** the dust makes you sneeze – Achoo! **The** 62

book won't be there. It's gone. **Sucked** away into another dimension, maybe. Stolen 63

**by** the portal. Just be glad the portal takes only your things and doesn't take you. 64







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## Sacred Saguaro

The saguaro cactus is one of the most important plants of the southwestern Sonora

desert. This cactus does not grow anywhere **else** on earth.

1

The large tree-like cactuses **provide** food and places to live for **lots** of animal

3

species. The native people **of** Southern Arizona consider them sacred. Although

4

**the** saguaros are not technically endangered, Arizona **laws** protect them with strict

6

rules.

Saguaros **grow** in the Sonoran Desert, which stretches **from** Arizona to

8

California and runs south **to** the Mexican state of Sonora. They **are** instantly

10

recognizable even if you have never **seen** one in real life, since they **appear** in

12

thousands of movies. While the **grown** ones are majestic, saguaros are extremely

13

Keep going 

**vulnerable** to frost and cold, so they **are** not found in mountainous country where **15**

**the** temperature often drops below freezing at **night** . **17**

It takes a long time for **the** saguaros to grow. By the time **they** are ten years **19**

old, many of **them** are only one and a half **inches** tall. By the time they are **fully** **22**

grown, some can be as tall **as** sixty feet. Generally, they can grow **over** twenty five **24**

arms that bend upward **and** point to the sky. But some **of** them never grow any arms **26**

at **all** , so they look like spears. **27**

Because **they** need to collect a lot of **water** to survive, saguaros spread out **29**

their **roots** just a few inches deep in **the** soil. The roots spread out underground **31**

**almost** as far as the cactus is **tall** . But there is always one deeper **root** , or tap root, **34**

Keep going 

that extends down two **feet** or more.

35

Individual saguaro cactuses can **live** for more than one hundred and fifty

36

**years**. They bloom with small white flowers **in** the early spring. The flowers open

38

**just** after sunset, and close again by **the** middle of the following afternoon. They

40

**are** pollinated by bees, hummingbirds, various other **kinds** of birds, and bats. In the

42

**summer** people pick and eat their bright **red** fruit. People use long poles made

44

**from** the ribs of the saguaro to **knock** the fruit off the plant.

46

Native **people** make a drink from the fruit **that** is used to celebrate the

48

beginning **of** the growing season. It is often **used** as part of a ceremony to

50

**bring** rain.

51

Keep going 

Saguaros provide homes for lots **of** animal species, including woodpeckers,

52

finches, martins, **owls**, and wrens. Saguaros can collect and **store** a lot of water. This

54

helps **the** plant to survive in the dry **desert**.

56

The native people of the region **make** useful objects from the saguaro. For

57

**example**, they use its spines for sewing **needles** and its ribs for roofs. They

60

abandoned bird nests carved out of **the** cactus for storage.

61

The Saguaro National Park **protects** these plants. Saguaros cannot be cut down

62

without special permission because they are so important to the desert environment and

useful for animals and humans.





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## Unintended Consequences

Understanding how our behaviors have consequences is important! These behaviors

can be considered at **a** personal level or at a societal **level**. At a personal level, if **2**

you **would** like to get stronger you might **begin** to lift weights, eat the right **amount** **5**

of the right foods every day, **and** be sure to get enough sleep. **At** a societal level, if a **7**

city **wants** to reduce pollution, it might enact **laws** that promote recycling and **9**

decrease the **use** of natural resources. However, sometimes our **well-intended** **11**

behaviors can have side effects or **unwanted** effects. We call these effects “unintended **12**

consequences.”

**Unintended** consequences almost always result from a **lack** of real **14**

understanding of the problem **to** be addressed, combined with a lack **of** detailed **16**

Keep going 



planning. Consider the two examples **mentioned** above. The girl who wishes to **get** 18

stronger and who follows her plan **would** certainly get stronger over time. However, 19

**she** may not have planned on the **need** to buy more food and allocate **more** of her 22

free time to lifting **weights**. She might also find that in **order** to fulfill her plan she 24

needs **more** hours of sleep every night. She **can't** spend as much time in the 26

**evening** having fun with her friends as **she** would like. These costs of getting 28

**stronger** were unintended consequences of the plan **she** put into motion. Likewise, 30

the city **that** reduces pollution may not have planned **for** the increased costs of 32

recycling. Or **worse**, the city may need to double **the** trash collection for all its items 34

**that** need to be recycled. The increase **in** the number of trucks on the **street** 37

Keep going 

might cause more traffic congestion and **air** pollution. 38

Unintended consequences are real. One **example** comes from mid-century China. 39

China had **a** program to get rid of four **pests**: rats, flies, mosquitos, and sparrows. 41

Sparrows **were** considered a pest because they ate **farmers'** crops. People were 43

effective at killing **sparrows** and their eggs. However, when the **sparrows** were 45

destroyed, the locust population exploded **and** ate even more crops. The increase **in** 47

locusts and damage was an unintended **consequence**. 48

Another example is called the Streisand Effect, **named** after Barbara Streisand, a 49

famous singer **and** actress. About a decade ago, a **picture** of her expensive house was 51

posted **online**. She didn't want the images online. **So** she attempted to have the 53

Keep going 

images **removed**. The attempt backfired. It led to **the** picture of her house being more **55**

**widely** shared and posted. **56**

Nowadays, some pop **artists** use the Streisand Effect to their **advantage**. **58**

They will pretend to leak part **of** a new song online. They will **claim** it was stolen or **60**

an accident. **The** leak will create buzz for the **new** song, which ultimately becomes **62**

more popular **than** it would have been otherwise. So, unintended consequences aren't **63**

always bad.





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## Sea Stars

Most people who have spent some time at the beach as children have at some point become awed and fascinated by starfish. Starfish are undoubtedly interesting, and they

**are** also extremely bizarre. They come in **many** different sizes and colors. 2

Recently, scientists **of** ocean life have been trying to **replace** the name 4

starfish with sea star. **Why**? Because the starfish is not really **a** fish. It is technically 6

something else **that** is related to sea urchins, sea cucumbers, **and** sand dollars. 8

Scientists tell us that **there** are more than two thousand species **of** sea star 10

inhabiting all the world's **oceans**, and that sea stars are found **from** tropical climates 12

to the freezing waters **of** the Arctic. They only live in **saltwater** seas, however. They 14

are never to **be** found in freshwater lakes, streams, or **rivers**. 16

Keep going



Sea stars have hard, bony skin **that** protects them from most predators. In

17

**addition**

, their brilliant colors can camouflage them **from** danger in a coral reef or

19

**frighten**

off fish that might otherwise try **to** eat them.

21

Most sea stars that **you** find at the beach have five **arms**, looking like a star

23

shape. But **there** are also species of sea star **that** have ten, twenty, or forty arms.

25

**If**

a sea star loses one of **its** arms, it can simply grow another **to** replace it.

28

This unusual ability is **called** regeneration. And the sea star has **the** amazing ability

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to regenerate not only **its** arms, but in some cases its **entire** body.

32

A few species of sea **star** can grow an entirely new body, **complete** with

34

arms, out of just a **remaining** fragment of one limb. This is **because** their vital organs

36

Keep going



are housed in **the** arms, rather than in the central **body**. 38

Sea stars also have eyes at **the** tips of their arms. These eyes **help** them to 40

navigate the undersea world, **finding** food in both shallow and deep **water**. 42

Scientists say that the vision of **a** sea star is mainly a sense **of** light and dark. Even 44

though sea **stars** are so dazzlingly colorful, they themselves **do** not see any colors. 46

To feed **itself**, the hungry sea star uses tubes **on** the bottoms of its arms to 48

**grip** and pry open clams, oysters, and **other** shellfish. Each tube has two glands. 50

**One** gland releases a substance like glue, **while** the other releases another substance 52

that **dissolves** the first glue-like substance. These same **tubes** also allow the sea star to 54

**hold** tightly onto rocks even in crashing **waves**. 56

Keep going 



Sea stars do not have blood, **but** instead they pump seawater through their

57

**bodies**. They crawl along the ocean floor **or** in tidal pools at a speed **that** can seem

60

amazing. Next time you are at the beach or in an aquarium, why not take a close look at

sea stars and prepare to be awed and fascinated all over again?





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## Robert McCloskey

Robert McCloskey was an artist who wrote and illustrated books for children. He is

best known for his **picture** books *Make Way for Ducklings* and *Blueberries for Sal*, 1

**and**

also for his chapter books *Homer Price* **and** *Centerburg Tales*. 3

His first love was **music**. As he later recalled, “From the **time** my fingers were 5

long enough to **play** the scale, I took piano lessons. **I** started next to play the 7

harmonica, **the** drums, and then the oboe. The **musician’s** life was the life for me – 9

**that**

is, until I became interested in **things** electrical and mechanical. I collected 11

old **electric** motors and bits of wire, old **clocks** and Meccano sets. I built trains **and** 14

cranes with remote controls, my family’s Christmas **trees** revolved, lights flashed and 15

buzzers buzzed, **fuses** blew and sparks flew. The inventor’s **life** was the life for me 17

Keep going



– that **is**, until I started making drawings for **the** high school annual.” 19

It was then **that** artwork became his major obsession in **life**. After high 21

school, he attended art **school** in Boston and then in New York City. **After** that, he 23

lived by the seaside **and** painted pictures but found it hard **to** sell enough of them 25

to make **a** living. It was only when he **started** to combine his paintings with words, 27

**in** books that drew richly on his **own** experiences in life that he became 29

**successful**. He won prizes and his fame **steadily** grew, despite the interruption of 31

serving **in** the armed forces during World War II. 32

**His** most famous book, *Make Way for Ducklings*, **had** its inception in his own 34

experiences **of** walking through downtown Boston every morning **on** his way to 36

Keep going 

art school. That **was** when he noticed how mother ducks **would** stop traffic at around **38**

the same **time** every day by crossing the busy **street** to the Public Garden, a park **40**

**in** the middle of the city. He **was** fascinated by how confident the ducks **were** **43**

and by how people would stop **their** automobiles and wait patiently to let **the** ducks **45**

cross. Before he wrote and **drew** this book, he brought some baby **ducks** into his **47**

studio and spent months **studying** them and drawing them from every **angle**. The **49**

resulting book was extremely popular, **so** popular that a sculptor made bronze **50**

**statues** of the mother duck and her **ducklings** that stand now as a famous **52**

**landmark** in the same park. **53**

McCloskey continued **to** use people and places from his **life** in his work. **55**

Keep going 

His wife and **his** daughter Sally appeared in *Blueberries for Sal*. **The** hill in the 57

story is a **real** hill that was near their house. **It** took him a long time to **make** 60

each of his books, because he **wanted** to be true to life. 61

McCloskey **won** the Caldecott Medal for *Make Way for Ducklings*. 62

**He** won the same medal again a **few** years later for another book. He was 64

subsequently named a living legend by the Library of Congress shortly before he died in 2003.







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# Kimble

There's a movie from the 1990s called "The Fugitive" based on a TV show with the same name from the 1960s. The story in the movie is **basically** the same as in the **1**

show: **an** innocent man named Richard Kimble is **wrongfully** convicted of a crime, **3**

and on **his** way to prison he escapes from **custody**. He gets away, changes his **5**

appearance, **and** then goes around the country trying **to** locate the evidence he needs **7**

to **prove** his innocence. Meanwhile, a dedicated team **of** U.S. Marshals is hunting for **9**

him, **and** whenever the Marshals get too close, **he** must move on quickly or else **11**

**risk** being recaptured. **12**

Before his arrest, Kimble **was** a doctor, but now that he **is** on the run from **14**

the police, **he** makes his living by working at **various** menial jobs for low pay. He **16**

Keep going 

**tries** to stay clear of any place **where** he might be recognized. He does **not** 19

associate with people who he thinks **might** be able to guess his real **identity**. When 21

he is cornered, he always **finds** a clever way to get free, **no** matter how hopeless the 23

situation appears. **There** is something so decent about Kimble **that** it is hard not to 25

sympathize **with** him and hope he finds a **way** out of his predicament soon. 27

The **point** of telling you about the story **of** Dr. Kimble is so you'll understand 29

**why** my father named the stray dog Kimble. **The** dog just showed up one night. 31

**He** had no collar and no tags, **and** where he'd come from we didn't **know**. 34

We already had a dog named Atlas, **who** was a big dog with perky **ears** and 36

fluffy black and brown fur. Kimble **would** visit our backyard and play with Atlas, **who** 38

Keep going 

was chained to his doghouse. Atlas **was** a good dog, but without the **chain** he would

40

run off to visit **the** duck pond beyond the wooded area **that** bordered our backyard.

42

He could get **ticks** or fleas or run into a **skunk** in those woods.

44

Kimble acted friendly **and** playful, and soon Atlas didn't mind **when** he ate

46

from his food dish **or** slurped water from his bowl. One **night** it was raining really

48

hard, so **we** asked our father if we could **let** Kimble sleep inside the house, and

50

**he** said okay.

51

My mother gave Kimble **a** bath and treated him with tick **and** flea spray. The

53

next morning when **we** put Atlas on his chain, Kimble **stayed** close by. He came when

55

we **called** him. And he sat when we **said**, "Kimble, sit!" We were all amazed **at**

58

Keep going



how smart and gentle he was. **It** was hard to imagine how he **ended** up a stray, **60**

fending for himself.

**The** fugitive dog stayed with us for **about** a month before he moved on. We **62**

never saw him again, but we were all sure he was innocent.

