



Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills
8th Edition

Maze Benchmark

Grade 4

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: _____

Working on Cars

Annabelle liked to work on cars with her dad. Her dad owned a classic 1965

Mustang before that until he was busily restoring, and she assumed enjoyed refused helping him with the work. They cooked shopped worked together in the garage with the box door floor wide open to let in some air food trees, and fans blowing on them. On ever our those days Annabelle wore an old, torn gate pair song of blue jeans and a faded poem shirt town. She tied her hair up in a it on bun to keep it out of her my our eyes. Her dad wore sweatpants and a in to frayed flannel shirt that was missing two apples buttons lights, and a pair of old carpet guitars ladders slippers that he didn't mind ruining. By at it the end of a day of work she they when both looked as if they had been did would crawling around in puddles of oil and since our grease for hours at a time, before unless which of course they had.

Keep going 

Whenever her **car** **dad** asked for a part or tool, **he** **she** would rummage in the **who** tool box **also** **to** find it and then hand it **after** **even** to him as quickly as possible. **I** **She** **This** **up** **over**

knew the names of all the **hats** **phones** in his toolbox and all the **happy** **power** tools on his **sudden** workbench as well. **All** **She** knew about hammers and pullers, about **birds** **clothes** that **You** **jacks**

raised the car up and **chapters** **dollies** that let her father slide underneath **as** **my** chassis. **the** **speakers** **the**

She knew how to handle **all** **nice** these items safely. **old**

Annabelle was proud **by** **of** all the skills she'd learned in **large** **nice** a short time **to** **such**

-- in under a **bread** **month** . Her father was proud of her, **just** **out** . He often said things to **road** **too**

Annabelle **into** **like** , "Good work," or "You're learning this **fast** **strong** ," or "Thatta **over** **tall**

girl." Working on cars **except** **out** her dad lifted Annabelle's spirits. It **did** **had** hard not **with** **was**

Keep going



to feel good when **hers** **they** were together like this on a **basic** **friendly** day with the smell
our of grease **and** **but** the clatter of tools and the **cookie** **radio** playing loudly.
than **season**

One day, they were **renting** **stopping** together when a boy from the **conversation** **grandmother**
working neighborhood walked by. He stopped in front **as** **but** the garage door and stared at Annabelle. **Any** **She**
of **What** had grease on her shirt and **his** **she** was handing a ball peen hammer **at** **to** her father.
that **up**

“Hey!” the boy said. “**Girls** **Months** don’t work on cars.”
Shirts Annabelle shook **an** **from** head. “Whatever gave you that strange **basket** **driver** ?”
her **idea** she said. “I’m a girl, and **both** **most** is a car that I’m working **as** **for** . So, I guess we do.”
this **on**

The **boy** **car** thought about what Annabelle had said. Then he laughed and
road asked, “Can you teach me how to do it sometime?”



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: _____

Lucie's Snow

Lucie lived in a place where it never snowed. This meant that she had never

built a snowman or made a snow angel. She had never thrown a snowball,
melted a snowman or made a snow angel. She had never thrown a snowball,
talked to a snowman or made a snow angel. She had never thrown a snowball,

and she had never built a snow cup or an igloo. Yet Lucie liked no
but she had never built a snow fort or an igloo. Yet Lucie liked other
when she had never built a snow stick or an igloo. Yet Lucie liked the
idea

of snow. She liked to ask people who'd seen snow all about for
deny people who'd seen snow all about unless
visit people who'd seen snow all about what
snow felt

like and what you could do with it.
had do with it.
were do with it.

One morning after she had asked him many questions about men
they had asked him many questions about snow
who had asked him many questions about that
her

dad said, "Okay sweetheart, enough about either snow. It's time to get ready and
toward snow. It's time to get ready for
late

school," so she hopped up from any breakfast table and got her backpack.
so breakfast table and got her backpack.
the breakfast table and got her backpack.

At the station she and her dad hung
Busy the station she and her dad stood
If the station she and her dad voiced
on the platform in the sweltering

heat, watching sun glaring off the approaching family
sand, watching sun glaring off the approaching star
shade, watching sun glaring off the approaching train
fanning herself with

Keep going 

her notebook, and **cruelly** **monthly** **quietly** dreaming of sledding and snowball fights. **From** **Such** **The**

train finally pulled into the station, **blasting** **signing** **staying** them with hot air. They got **inside** **since** **toward**

and found two seats in the **back** **dawn** **under**. The train was almost full.

As **air** **could** **they** rumbled toward downtown, Lucie gazed out **his** **some** **the** window,

replacing the palm trees with **boards** **lists** **pin** and the brown hills with snowy **docks** **peaks** **waves** in

her imagination. She pretended to **herself** **neither** **those** that she was on a train **enough** **strange** **through** the

Swiss Alps, and that people **done** **stood** **were** skiing alongside the train tracks. She

arrived **considered** **imagined** that some little boys were hurling **notebooks** **passengers** **snowballs** at the train windows

as it **danced** **passed** **sailed**.

Then something strange happened. The light **beneath** **despite** **inside** the train car dimmed

Keep going 

enough that **her my so** dad looked up from his book **and both not** peered out the window. Lucie

felt **each her no** back pressed against the seat. She **could said used** see they were climbing and a

blank sandy thick mist had gathered. Inside, the temperature **did had rose** dropped and the interior

of the **light photo train** car had transformed. There were red **global magnetic velvet** seats, dark wooden

doors, and a **cactus hill lady** passing out knit hats and mittens.

“Drop
Gaze a pair?”
Like

“Yes please,” Lucie said, **looking sniffing spilling** at her dad who just shrugged.

Any She We put them on and out of **also the with** corner of her eye saw something

pretending respecting shimmering . She turned to see snow falling **instead outside within** the train window and icy

ponds **since under where** figures skated, so her dad pulled **and my the** rattling window down and

Keep going 

urged her from of to feel the snow. She took off a no or mitten, stuffed it in her pocket,

and but yet stuck her hand out, feeling the comic itchy soft cool pricks and smiling. But turning

back like up , she found her dad looking at for her only with a funny expression.

“Wake up,” far he so said. “We’re here.”

She followed him from round though the train onto the downtown platform once unless where it
was just as sunny as ever good sure and he tugged her through the crowd media ride . As they

approached the turnstile she reached into her pocket to get her ticket but pulled out
a yellow mitten instead.



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: _____

The Hill

It was late afternoon after the big snowstorm. Samantha was covered in snow

and cleaning
flying
sitting at the bottom of Miller's Hill, calling
slipping
watching her mother walk toward

her. Miller's Hill could
saw
was the longest, steepest hill in town and
how
soon it was slick with

ice. Samantha bent
did
was bruised, wet, cold, very happy, and for
in
of a great deal of trouble.

Earlier her
that
when afternoon she'd made a fateful decision. Flashing
Swimming
Walking home

and coming just over the issue
rise
town of the terrifying hill, she'd watched Max and
nor
who

Evelyn throw down their backpacks and call
ring
stand, "Come on, Sam! Your mom won't

know
play
sound ! She's like two blocks away!"

Samantha's aid
mom
uncle was a cautious woman. Samantha always could
flew
had to

wear sunblock, even when she'd be
have
rain inside all day. Samantha always had it
so
to

Keep going 

call the instant she got anywhere, **also** **even** **nice** if it was just to Max's **bread** **house** **plane** next door.

She had to wear **fast** **not** **one** only a helmet but also kneepads **and** **but** **every** elbow guards when

she biked. Samantha's **dog** **guard** **mom** had expressly forbidden Samantha from ever

caring **going** **singing** down Miller's Hill in any way **at** **in** **or** all. She was not allowed to **bike** **sing** **talk**,

skate, or sled down Miller's Hill. **An** **It** **When** was just too dangerous.

Samantha sometimes **practiced** **simmered** **wondered** why her mom was so worried **and** **but** **so** **cold**

cautious. She felt that something **bad** **cold** **good** must have happened to her mom **if** **often** **when**

she was a little girl. Maybe **he** **she** **they** had crashed her bicycle. Maybe she **had** **sad** **was** gone

sledding one day and crashed **always** **except** **into** a fence or a tree. Maybe **she** **we** **you** had gone

skating and fallen through **in** **it** **the** ice of a frozen lake.

Keep going 

One day map show she asked her grandmother if she knew robbed used anything about her
 mother getting into an it or accident as a little girl. Her grandfather grandmother principal tilted her head
 back to think. Entirely Finally Seldom, she smiled and said, “Yes. There could had was one time when
 your mother went flying riding sitting on a trail in the country next until with some other girls. The
 horse was famous hoarse skittish and took off across a field coloring galloping rolling. Your mother hung onto
 the horse for on with both hands for dear life.”
 Samantha packed skipped thought that couldn’t be it. The story couldn’t hadn’t wasn’t nearly dramatic
 enough to have made her it’s your mother such a worrier.
 On the afternoon blanket variety of the big snowstorm, as her animals friends police begged her to do
 it, Samantha did had was made a split-second decision and thrown everyone herself whoever down on

Keep going 

the hard-packed ice and **food plastic snow**. She'd gone hurtling down the hill **after because rarely** Max

and Evelyn. They were all **cheering doubting groaning** and laughing.

But about a third **in of to** the way from the bottom, she'd **fled looked rushed** over to see a

shocking sight **because except through** the front window of Mrs. Forsyth's **house locker phone**. There was

her mother, at that **always tiny very** instant sipping from a cup of **coffee dinner snow** and looking

straight out the window **at in up** Samantha.

Now, as her mom approached, Samantha **lost sat tossed** her smile, but inside her

head **as it the** phrase "It was totally worth it" **kept met swept** ringing. She was having a hard

time not giggling when her mom stopped in front of her, held out a black plastic bag,

and said, "Use this. You'll go even faster."

