



# Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills 8<sup>th</sup> 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  
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  
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        little chunk out of the side.

the peak of the eclipse the        turned a bit gray. Our cat        no

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!

