



Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills 8th Edition

Australasian Version

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: _____

Slashing

My name is Sarah, and I live on Ruttle Farm Lane in Inverloch,
Victoria. My favourite after-school activity is taking care
plant of my
read
chickens, Molly, Dolly, and Wally. Her
My second favourite activity is
Your
slashing he
our field.
them

A slasher is attached to a
in tractor and is like a big lawn mower.
of
At has a seat and windows. You have
It heard to climb up to sit on a
The wrote it . It
so
makes a lot of noise and
or it shakes and rattles and belches music
than power . It's
smoke
fun to ride in, and even
nice more fun to drive.
tall

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

Keep going ►

from their paddocks. If you **don't
hadn't
isn't** slash every year, the weeds **and
since
yet**

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

**engine
jungle
ladder** growing in your paddock.

After **she'll
they'd
you've** finished slashing the land looks **asleep
clean
hungry**. You

can now plough 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 slashing

**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

slashing **about
until
with** Mum or Dad. You have to **sit
try
walk** on their laps, and

Keep going ►

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

tractor 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

slashing. **Large One Strong** day last week, I was out **jumping running slashing** with Dad

when a fast, brown **animal lake road** jumped in front of us, across **how our with** paddock

and into the scrub. 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 tractor **at to up** follow it. Dad showed me

how **also to well** track its prints. The animal jumped **down often since** the muddy bush

track all the **last out way** to the jetty by the dam. **Its Me You** tracks went to the edge

Keep going ►

and 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 kangaroo!”



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The Secret Desert

My family lives in a two-storey 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 come have 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**
so **it** big hollow. As

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

I took off **but**
my jumper and tied it around my **bike**
with **head**, like a
wood
turban, to keep off **few**
the blazing sun. I walked out into **as**
up **its** sand. As I
the
walked, I looked **around**
tired for camels and palm trees, but **I**
when **no** only saw
who

tyre tracks.

The tracks **did**
used big. It looked like they'd been **heard**
were **made** by trucks.
went
Then there were some **engines**
springs that were so deep they looked **like**
tracks **such**
while
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 dinner I asked my dad **about over whole** the desert. I told him about **best his the** tyre 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** take away tonnes of sand. Builders **sat tasted used** the sand to

Keep going ►

make concrete to build
clean
turn houses on. He also said that far
our
thus house

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

Pit.

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

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

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
skate
toss

 horses on a trail. I'd been

also
next
on

 pony rides

before, so I wasn't

hungry
popular
worried

 about riding a horse.

We got

for
him
up

 at dawn and had a big

breakfast
football
weather

 before going out to

ride. When

his
my
we

 got to the stables, the horses

lived
said
were

 already saddled and

waiting. They stamped

mine
people
their

 hooves and neighed at us as

far
its
we

 walked

over to them. I could

bake
feel
melt

 my heart beating. It was exciting

so
to
us

 be

setting out on such a

big
pink
slimy

 adventure. I still didn't feel afraid,

but
the
with

 my

mouth got a little dry

also
from
never

 the excitement.

Keep going ►

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

One of my cousins got a either
former
pretty grey horse named Dove, and my inner
other
single

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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** I could think of to do **ran** to let go of the reins
Both **sat**
Why **was**

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

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

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

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

