



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
read** of my
chickens, Molly, Dolly, and Wally. **Her
My
Your** second favourite activity is
slashing **he
our
them** field.

A slasher is attached to **a
in
of** tractor and is like a big lawn mower.
**At
It
The** has a seat and windows. You **have
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 slasher to clear **as
for
the** vegetation

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

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 it had made a
where
splash.

“Congratulations,” rode
said Dad, pointing to something swimming in
took

but
it distance. “You just tracked your first baby kangaroo!”
the



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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 **so** was standing on the edge of **a** it **to** big hollow. As

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

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

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

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

tyre tracks.

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

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

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

coming doing **having** in a desert?

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** houses on. He also said that **far** **our** house

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

Pit.

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

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 stables, 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
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** **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 stables **and** **dark** stopped next
such **how**

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

