



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

Australasian Version

*Maze* Progress Monitoring

Grade 6

Administration Directions and Scoring Keys

Examiner script	
<p>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.</p> <p>(Hand out the Maze student worksheets. Make sure students have written their names down before proceeding.)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Tom goes to a school far from his house. Every morning, he takes a school (pause) art, bus, work (pause) to go to school.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Every morning, he takes a school <u>bus</u> to go to school.</p> <p>Now it’s your turn. Read the next sentence <u>silently</u> 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.</p> <p>(Allow up to 30 seconds for students to complete the example and put their pencils down.)</p> <p>If necessary, after 30 seconds say <b>Put your pencil down.</b> As soon as all students have their pencils down, say <b>Good job.</b></p> <p>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 <u>afternoon</u>, he also takes a bus home.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>At the end of <u>3 minutes</u>, stop the timer and say <b>Stop. Put your pencils down.</b></p>	
Reminders	
Start timer	Start the timer after you say <b>Begin.</b>
Prompts	<p>If a student starts reading the passage out loud, say <b>Please read the passage silently.</b> (Repeat as often as needed.)</p> <p>If a student skips an entire page, say, <b>Please be sure not to skip pages.</b></p> <p>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.)</p>
Discontinue	There is no discontinue rule. Every student should be encouraged to try their best until three minutes have passed.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Practice Passage

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Incorrect: \_\_\_\_\_

Adjusted Score: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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  
drives, hair **ties**, and socks; books, homework, hockey pucks, **and** tennis balls; and 7  
even larger things **like** sweatshirts, P.E. 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 **favourite** 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. **24**

What's **more**, it always swallows the essays and **homework** assignments on the **26**  
morning they 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. 63

Stolen **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

recognisable 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 about four **centimetres** tall. By the time they are **fully** **22**

grown, some can be as tall **as** eighteen metres. Generally, they can grow **over** twenty **24**

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

arms 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 centimetres 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 sixty **centimetres** 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.

40

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

42

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

44

made **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 **use** 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 behaviours have consequences is important! These

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

personal level, if you **would** like to get stronger you might **begin** to lift weights, eat **4**

the right **amount** of the right foods every day, **and** be sure to get enough sleep. **At** **7**

a societal level, if a city **wants** to reduce pollution, it might enact **laws** that promote **9**

recycling and decrease the **use** of natural resources. However, sometimes our **10**

**well-intended** behaviours can have side effects or **unwanted** effects. We call these **12**

effects “unintended 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** rubbish collection for all its 34  
 items **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, mosquitoes, 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 Barbra 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 colours. 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 **addition**, their brilliant colours can camouflage them **from** danger in a coral reef or **frighten** off fish that might otherwise try **to** eat them.

Most sea stars that **you** find at the beach have five **arms**, looking like a star shape. But **there** are also species of sea star **that** have ten, twenty, or forty arms.

**If** a sea star loses one of **its** arms, it can simply grow another **to** replace it. This unusual ability is **called** regeneration. And the sea star has **the** amazing ability to regenerate not only **its** arms, but in some cases its **entire** body.

A few species of sea **star** can grow an entirely new body, **complete** with arms, out of just a **remaining** fragment of one limb. This is **because** their vital organs

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 colourful, they themselves **do** not see any colours. 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 yearbook.” 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.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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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 recognised. 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  
 sympathise **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 bush area **that** bordered our backyard.

42

He could get **ticks** or fleas or run into a **possum** 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.





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## The Great Library of Alexandria

The Great Library of Alexandria is one of the legends of history. But it is also a big

**historical** mystery. So far, nobody has been **able** to locate any traces of the **2**

**building** or buildings in which the Library **was** housed, even though they know the **4**

**part** of the city where it was **supposed** to have stood. **6**

The Library of Alexandria **was** not the first library. There were **already** **8**

many libraries scattered all over the Greek **world**. Greek writing had been invented **9**

six hundred **years** earlier, and many scrolls had been **written** since that time. But the **11**

Library **of** Alexandria was unique in one way. **Its** purpose was to collect either a **13**

**copy** or an original of every scroll **ever** written. This was a bold and **original** idea. **16**

To reach this goal would **take** plenty of money and time. **17**

Keep going



The **city** of Alexandria was founded by Alexander **the** Great. Upon 19

Alexander's death, Ptolemy -- one **of** his generals -- took over. At that **time** 21

Alexandria was a trading crossroads of **the** whole ancient world. It was the **perfect** 23

site for such a big project.

**A** scholar named Demetrius met Ptolemy and **pitched** his idea of creating 25

a library **that** would contain a copy of every **scroll** ever written. It would be the 27

**storehouse** of all knowledge. Ptolemy liked the **sound** of that, and so the Great 29

Library **was** founded. 30

Ptolemy's son expanded the Library. **He** sent out people in all directions **to** 32

copy or buy every single scroll **they** could get their hands on. Any **ship** coming 34

Keep going





into the harbour was searched **for** scrolls, which were handed over to **the** Library 36

for copying. When the copying **was** done, the Library kept the original **and** handed 38

back the copy.

Scholars travelled **from** all over to study at the Library. **Philosophers** came to 40

exchange ideas. Within the Library's **walls**, geometry was invented, and medical 41

discoveries **were** shared. It was one of the **most** respected and famous places in the 43

**ancient** world. 44

At some point the Library **was** destroyed, but when and how? Part **of** it may 46

have been consumed in **a** fire that ravaged the city when Julius Caesar **battled** his 48

way into the harbour. But **it** is more likely that the Library **was** destroyed piece by 50

Keep going ►

piece rather than **in** a single blaze. Over centuries, quite **a** few scrolls could have **52**

been moved **out** of the Library, and possibly out **of** Alexandria itself. **54**

Finally, the Library was **gone**. In its place stood a temple, **which** was **56**

eventually razed to the ground. **By** then there were no scrolls left **to** pile up and **58**

burn.

The dry **air** of Egypt helps to preserve ancient **scrolls**. Every so often, **60**

jars containing pieces **of** ancient writing are found and dug **up** in the desert. **62**

Some people believe that we may one day find a vast storeroom of scrolls that once belonged

to the Library under the present city of Alexandria.





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## Are Hedgehogs and Porcupines Related?

Many people wonder if hedgehogs and porcupines are related. After all, both have

quills, which **is** a pretty unusual feature, and both **have** round-ish bodies—aren't **2**

they cousins?

In **fact**, they are not even the same **species**! Porcupines are rodents, while **4**

hedgehogs belong **to** the order of mammals that includes **moles** and shrews. Aside **6**

from that, there **are** other differences between them as well. **7**

**There** are two families of porcupines: Old World **porcupines** and New **9**

World porcupines. Old World **porcupines** live in parts of Europe, Asia, **and** Africa. **11**

New World porcupines live in **parts** of North America and South America. **12**

**Porcupines** are about sixty to ninety centimetres **long** with a twenty to thirty **14**

Keep going ►

centimetre tail. New World **porcupines** live mostly in trees and tend **to** be nocturnal. 16

They are herbivores. They **eat** green plants when they are available **and** tree bark 18

in the winter. Old World **porcupines** live on the ground. They are **also** herbivores, 20

but they may seek food **during** the day as well as at **night**. 22

Porcupines have a great number of **long** quills. They range in size from five 23

**to** seven centimetres long to almost thirty **centimetres**, and each animal may have 25

as **many** as 30,000 of them. When a **porcupine** is threatened, it will arch its 27

**back** and wave its tail, causing its **quills** to stick up. The quills can **fall** off the 30

porcupine or be dislodged **by** contact. They are barbed at the **end**, which makes 32

them stick painfully in **their** predator's skin. Porcupines grow new quills **as** 34

Keep going



easily as humans grow hair or **fingernails** . 35

Unlike porcupines, hedgehogs do not live **in** the Americas. They are native 36

**to** Europe, Asia, and Africa. Hedgehogs are **also** much smaller than porcupines. 38

They range **from** ten to thirty centimetres long, with **tails** no more than two 40

centimetres long. **Like** most porcupines, they are nocturnal, but **their** diet is 42

omnivorous. They eat insects **and** small animals like mice and frogs, **as** well as 44

green plants, roots, and **fruit** . 45

A hedgehog's quills are about 25 **millimetres** long. They do not detach easily 46

**from** the hedgehog's body, and they are **not** barbed. Hedgehogs have a first set 48

**of** quills that emerges from their skin **a** few days after they are born. **A** few 51

Keep going ►

weeks later, as they mature, **the** baby quills fall out, and a **new** set of adult quills **53**  
 comes in. **They** generally do not lose or gain **quills** after their adult quills have **55**  
 grown **in**. Although the hedgehog's quills do not **detach** like the porcupine, it still **57**  
 uses **them** for self defence. When threatened by a **predator**, the hedgehog curls **59**  
 into a ball **with** its face, legs, and belly completely **tucked** inside. The predator is **61**

then presented with a spiny object that it cannot bite or attack without injury.







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 First Day of Summer

After weeks and days of waiting for summer to arrive, Jamal woke up one Saturday

morning to hot, humid weather. Even after he threw the blankets **off** his legs, the **1**  
back of his **neck** and the backs of his knees **felt** sticky. He had cold cereal and **3**  
**milk** for breakfast, and if he had **been** allowed to, he would have spent **the** **6**  
entire day in the beautiful, cool **air** flowing out of the refrigerator. Even **the** **8**  
family cat was sprawled out on **the** darkest part of the hallway with **his** belly **10**  
resting on the cool tiles.

Jamal **dug** lazily through his dresser drawers for **a** pair of shorts from last **12**  
year **that** still fit him. His arms felt **unusually** heavy; the heat seemed to have **14**  
**sapped** all his energy and creativity. **15**

Keep going



“If **you’re** looking for something to do, you **can** help me clean out the **shed**,” Jamal’s **dad** said cheerfully.

“I’m working on wardrobes **today**, and you could help me with **that**,” his mum said.

Jamal thought both **those** ideas sounded not only hot and **uncomfortable** but also extremely boring.

“Or, why **not** call a friend?” his dad suggested.

**That** idea was more appealing. The only **problem** was, if he called a friend, **he** should have some idea of an **activity** for them, and somehow his mind **was** blank.

Keep going



For a while, he lay **limply** on the floor of his room **and** reread some old,

30

favourite comic books.

**From** his position on the floor, he **noticed** that not only was there **a**

33

tremendous amount of dust under his **bed**, there were also some random items: **an**

35

old tartan sock, a football, a **plastic** egg filled with glow-in-the-dark putty, a **handful**

37

of old sports trading cards, and **a** five dollar note. He reached carefully under **the**

39

bed for the five dollar note, which **he** had no memory of losing. It **must** have been

41

hidden in that overlooked **zone** for a long time.

42

He took **the** money and put it in his **pocket**. He told his parents where he

44

**was** going, and then he ambled over **to** the convenience store.

46

Keep going



It was heavenly **leaning** over the freezer case, weighing his **options**, deciding 48  
 what to get, but the **man** behind the counter frowned at him **and** told him to stop 50  
 letting the **cold** air out. He chose a cherry **ice** block. It was inexpensive, so he 52  
**could** use the rest of his money **to** buy something else later. 54  
 Jamal took **his** ice block to the counter, and as **he** was paying for it, his 56  
 friend Maxwell **walked** through the door with his basketball **tucked** under his arm. 58  
 He'd come to **buy** a drink. "Hey, want to shoot **some** hoops?" he asked Jamal. 60  
 They took **their** cold things and walked over to **the** school, Maxwell 62  
 bouncing the basketball on **the** footpath as they went. They lounged **in** the 64  
 shade for a bit, bouncing **the** ball between them off the court **and** against the wall 66

Keep going



lazily while Jamal **ate** the ice block and Maxwell drank **his** drink. It was a real  
summer day.

68



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Practice Passage

Tom goes to a school far from his house. Every morning, he takes a school 

art  
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work

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Correct: \_\_\_\_\_

Incorrect: \_\_\_\_\_

Adjusted Score: \_\_\_\_\_



## Simone Biles

Many people, including the Olympic Champion Mary Lou Retton, say that Simone

Biles is the greatest gymnast ever. As of 2020, she has won 30 Olympic **and** World **1**  
Championship medals, more than any **other** American gymnast. She is the third **most** **3**  
decorated gymnast in the world. She **is** able to perform extraordinarily difficult skills. **4**  
**Some** of her routines are the most **difficult** that any female gymnast has ever **6**  
**done**. Five skills, one for beam, and two **each** for vault and for floor, are **named** **9**  
after Biles. They are so challenging **that** no one else can do them. **10**  
Simone Biles **was** born on March 14, 1997 in Columbus, Ohio. **Her** mother **12**  
could not take care of **her** and her siblings, so after some **time** in foster care, **14**  
Simone and her **younger** sister were adopted by their grandparents. **They** went to **16**

Keep going



live in a suburb **of** Houston, Texas.

17

One day, when Simone **was** six years old, she was taken **on** a school

19

excursion to a gym. **While** she was playing on the trampolines, **she** saw a team of

21

gymnasts practising **and** working out in another part of **the** gym. She started to

23

copy them. **A** coach noticed her talent and sent **a** letter home to her parents. The

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**letter** recommended that she take a tumbling **class**. Soon after, she enrolled in

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the **training** program at Bannon's Gymnastix. She began **working** with her first

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coach, Aimee Boorman, **when** she was eight years old.

30

When **she** was fifteen, she switched from public **school** to homeschooling.

32

She wanted to spend **more** time at the gym. By then, **she** had already begun her

34

Keep going



elite career. **Increasing** her time at the gym from twenty **hours** a week to thirty- **36**  
 two improved her **performance**. **37**  
 Today, Simone Biles lives in her **hometown**. She loves to spend time with **38**  
**her** friends and family, read, and she **is** passionate about history. Every day, she **40**  
**works** out at the gym from nine **in** the morning until noon, and then **again** in **43**  
 the afternoon from three o'clock **until** six. She was training to compete **for** a spot in **45**  
 the U.S. Olympics **team** for 2020. When the games were **rescheduled** for 2021, she **47**  
 had to decide **whether** she would compete or not. At 23, Simone **is** now old for a **49**  
 gymnast working **at** the highest level. She had been **planning** to retire after the **51**  
 2020 Olympics. **Ultimately**, she decided to keep training for **the** rescheduled **53**

Keep going



Olympics, in spite of the

**stress**

it puts on her body and

**mind**

55

When Simone Biles does retire, she

**will**

always be remembered for the skills

56

**named**

after her. She will be remembered

**for**

her incredible skill, talent, and work

58

**ethic**

. And, she will be remembered for her integrity and good spirits.

59

