



Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills
8th Edition

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 _____ to go to school. In the _____, he also
takes a bus home.



Correct: _____

Incorrect: _____

Adjusted Score: _____

Brush Hogging

My name is Sarah, and I live on Riggerts Farm Road in Stovepipe, Vermont. My favorite after-school activity is taking care of my chickens, Molly, Dolly, and Wally. My second favorite activity is brush hogging a field.

A brush hog is like a tractor crossed with a lawn mower. It has windows and a seat. You've got to climb up to sit on it. It makes a lot of noise. It shakes and rattles and belches. It's fun to ride in, and it's more fun to drive.

People with brush hogs use a brush hog to clear brush and vegetation from their fields. If you brush hog every week, the weeds and saplings grow fast and tall. Before you know it, you'll

Keep going 

have an entire _____ growing in your back yard.

After _____ done brush hogging the field looks _____ .

You can now plow it and _____ good things to grow and eat.

_____ have the tingling satisfied feeling of _____ job well done.

Sometimes brush hogging _____ you very hungry. You just want

_____ go inside and make yourself a _____ and drink some cold

water.

The _____ of our house are, when you _____ ten, you can

start brush hogging _____ Mom or Dad. You have to

on their laps, and you have _____ buckle in with a harness. You

_____ put your hands on the steering _____ , but you can't touch

anything else. _____ key to the brush hog is

_____ in a secret place in the _____ .

Keep going 

You can see some interesting parts nature while
you are brush hogging. day last week, I was brush
with Dad when a fast, brown ran in front of
us, across field and into the woods. It so
quick I barely had time see it. We decided to stop
get out of the brush hog follow it. Dad
showed me how track its prints. The animal ran the
muddy hiking trail all the to the dock by the lake.
tracks went to the edge and . A ripple on the
water showed it had made a splash.
“Congratulations,” Dad, pointing to something swimming
in distance. “You just tracked your first baby moose!”



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The Secret Desert

My family lives in a two-story house on a dead-end street with a little forest where it ends. The trees there are all evergreen . They grow so close together you've to turn sideways to get through. is always cool and dark in forest.

One day, I left my lying on its side and walked the evergreens. My feet made no on the thick carpet of brown needles. It was so still, I hear my own breath and even heart beating.

Finally, I came out the cool and dark forest into hot sun. I saw then that was standing on the edge of big hollow. As far as I see

Keep going 

there was nothing but sand. was a desert!

I took off sweatshirt and tied it around my ,
like a turban, to keep off blazing sun. I walked out into
 sand. As I walked, I looked for camels and palm
trees, but only saw tire tracks.

The tracks big. It looked like they'd been
 by trucks. Then there were some that were so deep
they looked they'd been made by a bulldozer. what
were trucks and a bulldozer in a desert?

I walked for seemed like a long time, but
seemed to be no end to desert. I was very hot and
 . I decided to turn around and back to the
cool evergreen forest. I reached the shade of the

Keep going 

trees, I was a little dizzy. I sat down for a few minutes to enjoy the coolness. Then I walked all the way through the forest, got on my bike, and rode slowly home.

That night at supper I asked my dad about the desert. I told him about the tire and bulldozer tracks I'd seen in the middle. He said that the place was called a "Sand-Pit." Trucks had to go there to dig out and haul away tons of sand. Builders used the sand to make cement for houses on. He also said that the house foundation had probably used cement mixed with sand from the Sand-Pit.

"Oh?" I murmured. But I wasn't really paying attention. My dad always had interesting things to say about just about everything. I simply felt disappointed that not only was

Keep going 

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 _____ horses on a trail. I'd been _____ pony rides before, so I wasn't _____ about riding a horse.

We got _____ at dawn and had a big _____ before going out to ride. When _____ got to the barn, the horses _____ already saddled and waiting. They stamped _____ hooves and neighed at us as _____ walked over to them. I could _____ my heart beating. It was exciting _____ be setting out on such a _____ adventure. I still didn't feel afraid, _____ my mouth got a little dry _____ the excitement.

The horses we were _____ to ride had been chosen for

Keep going



. One of my cousins got a gray horse named Dove, and the cousin got a shiny dark brown called Bill. Mine was called Freckles, she had rusty brown spots all her white coat. Freckles had a look that reminded me of my on a hot day. Our trail called Freckles a veteran, which I meant she was old. I didn't why they'd chosen this horse for to ride, but I didn't mind. were all in a good mood out on the trail. The sunlight hot, but the air was cool tasted sweet.

Riding Freckles felt like on a boat and a slow-motion at the same time. Very slow-motion! the horses walked in a line the trail. Freckles and I came .

Keep going 

Slowly we got further and further _____ the others. The guide turned
around _____ called to Freckles. I tried to _____ her by
flapping my legs against _____ sides, but she would not be
_____. She took her time putting one _____ in front
of the other until _____ reached a turn in the trail.

_____, she suddenly lifted her head and _____ to trot. The
guide shouted at _____, but Freckles didn't stop. She ran
_____ all the other horses. I was _____ up and down
in the saddle. _____ was afraid I would fall off!

I could think of to do _____ to let go of the reins
_____ hold tightly onto the saddle with _____ hands!

My cousins couldn't help laughing _____ how funny I looked.

Freckles ran _____ the way back to the barn _____ stopped

Keep going 

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

