



Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills
8th Edition

Maze Benchmark

Grade 3

Administration Directions and Scoring Keys

Examiner script	
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. (Hand out the Maze student worksheets. Make sure students have written their names down before proceeding.) 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. Tom goes to a school far from his house. Every morning, he takes a school (pause) art, bus, work (pause) to go to school. 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. Every morning, he takes a school <u>bus</u> to go to school. 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. (Allow up to 30 seconds for students to complete the example and put their pencils down.) If necessary, after 30 seconds say Put your pencil down. As soon as all students have their pencils down, say Good job. 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. 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. At the end of <u>3 minutes</u>, stop the timer and say Stop. Put your pencils down.	
Reminders	
Start timer	Start the timer after you say Begin.
Prompts	If a student starts reading the passage out loud, say Please read the passage silently. (Repeat as often as needed.) If a student skips an entire page, say. Please be sure not to skip pages. If a student stops working, say Please keep going until I tell you to stop. Just do your best work. (Repeat as often as needed.)
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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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 1
chickens, Molly, Dolly, and Wally. **My** second favorite activity is 2
brush hogging **our** field. 3
A brush hog is like **a** tractor crossed with a 4
lawn mower. **It** has windows and a seat. You've 5
got to climb up to sit on **it**. It makes a 7
lot of noise **and** it shakes and rattles and belches 8
smoke. It's fun to ride in, and **even** more fun to drive. 10
People with **land** use a brush hog to clear **the** vegetation 12
from their fields. If you **don't** brush hog every week, the weeds 13
and saplings grow fast and tall. Before **you** know it, you'll 15

Keep going ►

have an entire **forest** growing in your back yard. 16

After **you're** done brush hogging the field looks **clean**. 18

You can now plow it and **plant** good things to grow and eat. 19

You have the tingling satisfied feeling of **a** job well done. 21

Sometimes brush hogging **makes** you very hungry. You just want 22

to go inside and make yourself a **sandwich** and drink some 24

cold water.

The **rules** of our house are, when you **turn** ten, you can 26

start brush hogging **with** Mom or Dad. You have to **sit** 28

on their laps, and you have **to** buckle in with a harness. You 29

can put your hands on the steering **wheel**, but you can't touch 31

anything else. **The** key to the brush hog is 32

hidden in a secret place in the **house**. 34

Keep going ►

You can see some interesting parts **of** nature while 35
 you are brush hogging. **One** day last week, I was brush **hogging** 37
 with Dad when a fast, brown **animal** ran in front of 38
 us, across **our** field and into the woods. It **was** so 40
 quick I barely had time **to** see it. We decided to stop 41
and get out of the brush hog **to** follow it. Dad 43
 showed me how **to** track its prints. The animal ran **down** the 45
 muddy hiking trail all the **way** to the dock by the lake. 46
Its tracks went to the edge and **disappeared**. A ripple on the 48
 water showed **where** it had made a splash. 49
 “Congratulations,” **said** Dad, pointing to something 50
 swimming in **the** distance. “You just tracked your first baby 51
 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 **trees**. They grow so close together you've **got** to turn sideways to get through. **It** is always cool and dark in

the forest.

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

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

Keep going ►

there was nothing but sand. **It** was a desert! 16

I took off **my** sweatshirt and tied it around my **head** , 18

like a turban, to keep off **the** blazing sun. I walked out into 19

the sand. As I walked, I looked **around** for camels and palm 21

trees, but **I** only saw tire tracks. 22

The tracks **were** big. It looked like they'd been 23

made by trucks. Then there were some **tracks** that were so deep 25

they looked **like** they'd been made by a bulldozer. **But** what 27

were trucks and a bulldozer **doing** in a desert? 28

I walked for **what** seemed like a long time, but **there** 30

seemed to be no end to **this** desert. I was very hot and 31

thirsty . I decided to turn around and **go** back to the 33

cool evergreen forest. **When** I reached the shade of the 34

Keep going ►

pine trees, I was a little dizzy. I sat down for a
 few minutes in 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
 out in the middle. He said that this place was called
 a "Sand-Pit." Trucks used to go there to dig out and haul
 away tons of sand. Builders used the sand to make cement to
 build houses on. He also said that our house foundation
 had probably used cement made 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 **ride** horses on a trail. 1
I'd been **on** pony rides before, so I wasn't **worried** about 3
riding a horse.

We got **up** at dawn and had a big **breakfast** 5
before going out to ride. When **we** got to the barn, the horses 6
were already saddled and waiting. They stamped **their** 8
hooves and neighed at us as **we** walked over to them. I could 9
feel my heart beating. It was exciting **to** be 11
setting out on such a **big** adventure. I still didn't feel afraid, 12
but my mouth got a little dry **from** the excitement. 14
The horses we were **going** to ride had been chosen for **us** 16

Keep going ►

. One of my cousins got a **pretty** gray horse named 17
 Dove, and the **other** cousin got a shiny dark brown **horse** called 19
 Bill. Mine was called Freckles, **because** she had rusty brown spots all 20
over her white coat. Freckles had a **tired** look that reminded 22
 me of my **grandma** on a hot day. Our trail **guide** called 24
 Freckles a veteran, which I **figured** meant she was old. I didn't 25
know why they'd chosen this horse for **me** to ride, but I 27
 didn't mind. **We** were all in a good mood **starting** out 29
 on the trail. The sunlight **was** hot, but the air was cool 30
and tasted sweet. 31
 Riding Freckles felt like **being** on a boat and a slow-motion 32
see-saw at the same time. Very slow-motion! **All** the horses 34
 walked in a line **along** the trail. Freckles and I came **last** . 36

Keep going ►

Slowly we got further and further **behind** the others. The guide turned 37
around **and** called to Freckles. I tried to **encourage** her by 39
flapping my legs against **her** sides, but she would not be 40
rushed. She took her time putting one **hoof** in front 42
of the other until **we** reached a turn in the trail. 43
Then, she suddenly lifted her head and **started** to trot. The 45
guide shouted at **her**, but Freckles didn't stop. She ran 46
past all the other horses. I was **bouncing** up and down 48
in the saddle. **I** was afraid I would fall off! **All** 50
I could think of to do **was** to let go of the reins 51
and hold tightly onto the saddle with **both** hands! 53
My cousins couldn't help laughing **at** how funny I looked. 54
Freckles ran **all** the way back to the barn **and** stopped 56

Keep going ►

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

