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# **Grade 3 English Language Arts/Literacy Practice Test**

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# Unit 1

# **Directions:**

Today, you will take Unit 1 of the Grade 3 English Language Arts/Literacy Practice Test.

Read each passage and question. Then, follow the directions to answer each question. Mark your answers by circling your answers in your test booklet. If you need to change an answer, be sure to erase your first answer completely.

One of the questions will ask you to write a response. Write your response in the space provided in your test booklet.

If you do not know the answer to a question, you may go on to the next question. If you finish early, you may review your answers and any questions you did not answer.

Today you will read two stories titled "Johnny Chuck Finds the Best Thing in the World" and "Me First." As you read, think about the actions of the characters and the events of the stories. Answer the questions to help you write an essay.

Read the story titled "Johnny Chuck Finds the Best Thing in the World." Then answer questions 1 through 3.

# Johnny Chuck Finds the Best Thing in the World

by Thornton W. Burgess

- 1 Old Mother West Wind had stopped to talk with the Slender Fir Tree.
- 2 "I've just come across the Green Meadows," said Old Mother West Wind, "and there I saw the Best Thing in the World."
- 3 Striped Chipmunk was sitting under the Slender Fir Tree and he couldn't help hearing what Old Mother West Wind said. "The Best Thing in the World—now what can that be?" thought Striped Chipmunk. "Why, it must be heaps and heaps of nuts and acorns! I'll go and find it."
- 4 So Striped Chipmunk started down the Lone Little Path through the wood as fast as he could run. Pretty soon he met Peter Rabbit.
- 5 "Where are you going in such a hurry, Striped Chipmunk?" asked Peter Rabbit.
- 6 "Down in the Green Meadows to find the Best Thing in the World," replied Striped Chipmunk, and ran faster.
- 7 "The Best Thing in the World," said Peter Rabbit, "why, that must be a great pile of carrots and cabbage! I think I'll go and find it."
- 8 So Peter Rabbit started down the Lone Little Path through the wood as fast as he could go after Striped Chipmunk.
- 9 As they passed the great hollow tree Bobby Raccoon put his head out. "Where are you going in such a hurry?" asked Bobby Raccoon.
- 10 "Down in the Green Meadows to find the Best Thing in the World!" shouted Striped Chipmunk and Peter Rabbit, and both began to run faster.

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- 11 "The Best Thing in the World," said Bobby Raccoon to himself, "why, that must be a whole field of sweet milky corn! I think I'll go and find it."
- 12 So Bobby Raccoon climbed down out of the great hollow tree and started down the Lone Little Path through the wood as fast as he could go after Striped Chipmunk and Peter Rabbit, for there is nothing that Bobby Raccoon likes to eat so well as sweet milky corn.
- 13 At the edge of the wood they met Jimmy Skunk.
- 14 "Where are you going in such a hurry?" asked Jimmy Skunk.
- 15 "Down in the Green Meadows to find the Best Thing in the World!" shouted Striped Chipmunk and Peter Rabbit and Bobby Raccoon. Then they all tried to run faster.
- 16 "The Best Thing in the World," said Jimmy Skunk. "Why, that must be packs and packs of beetles!" And for once in his life Jimmy Skunk began to hurry down the Lone Little Path after Striped Chipmunk and Peter Rabbit and Bobby Raccoon.
- 17 They were all running so fast that they didn't see Reddy Fox until he jumped out of the long grass and asked:
- 18 "Where are you going in such a hurry?"
  - 19 "To find the Best Thing in the World!" shouted Striped Chipmunk and Peter Rabbit and Bobby Raccoon and Jimmy Skunk, and each did his best to run faster.
  - 20 "The Best Thing in the World," said Reddy Fox to himself. "Why, that must be a whole pen full of tender young chickens, and I must have them."
  - 21 So away went Reddy Fox as fast as he could run down the Lone Little Path after Striped Chipmunk, Peter Rabbit, Bobby Raccoon and Jimmy Skunk.
  - 22 By and by they all came to the house of Johnny Chuck.
  - 23 "Where are you going in such a hurry?" asked Johnny Chuck.
  - 24 "To find the Best Thing in the World," shouted Striped Chipmunk and Peter Rabbit and Bobby Raccoon and Jimmy Skunk and Reddy Fox.
  - 25 "The Best Thing in the World," said Johnny Chuck. "Why I don't know of anything better than my own little home and the warm sunshine and the beautiful blue sky."

- 26 So Johnny Chuck stayed at home and played all day among the flowers with the Merry Little Breezes of Old Mother West Wind and was as happy as could be.
- 27 But all day long Striped Chipmunk and Peter Rabbit and Bobby Raccoon and Jimmy Skunk and Reddy Fox ran this way and ran that way over the Green Meadows trying to find the Best Thing in the World. The sun was very, very warm and they ran so far and they ran so fast that they were very, very hot and tired, and still they hadn't found the Best Thing in the World.
- 28 When the long day was over they started up the Lone Little Path past Johnny Chuck's house to their own homes. They didn't hurry now for they were so very, very tired! And they were cross—oh so cross! Striped Chipmunk hadn't found a single nut. Peter Rabbit hadn't found so much as the leaf of a cabbage. Bobby Raccoon hadn't found the tiniest bit of sweet milky corn. Jimmy Skunk hadn't seen a single beetle. Reddy Fox hadn't heard so much as the peep of a chicken. And all were as hungry as hungry could be.
- 29 Half way up the Lone Little Path they met Old Mother West Wind going to her home behind the hill. "Did you find the Best Thing in the World?" asked Old Mother West Wind.
- 30 "No!" shouted Striped Chipmunk and Peter Rabbit and Bobby Raccoon and Jimmy Skunk and Reddy Fox all together.
- 31 "Johnny Chuck has it," said Old Mother West Wind. "It is being happy with the things you have and not wanting things which some one else has. And it is called Con-tent-ment."

From OLD MOTHER WEST WIND by Thornton W. Burgess—Public Domain

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What does **cross** mean as it is used in paragraph 28 of "Johnny Chuck Finds the Best Thing in the World"?

- A excited
- B lost
- © upset
- scared

# Part B

Which statement **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A ". . . ran this way and ran that way . . ."
- ". . . hadn't found the Best Thing in the World."
- © "... they started up the Lone Little Path ...."
- They didn't hurry now . . . ."

How do the details in the story show the idea of "Con-tent-ment"?

- A through describing what Johnny Chuck does at his home
- ® through the question that Johnny Chuck asks in the story
- © through the explanation of the animals' hunger after their search
- through the listing of all the animals that join the group

### Part B

Which detail from "Johnny Chuck Finds the Best Thing in the World" supports the answer to Part A?

- ". . . played all day among the flowers with the Merry Little Breezes of Old Mother West Wind . . ." (paragraph 26)
- © ". . . Striped Chipmunk and Peter Rabbit and Bobby Raccoon and Jimmy Skunk and Reddy Fox ran this way and ran that way over the Green Meadows trying to find the Best Thing in the World." (paragraph 27)
- "Peter Rabbit hadn't found so much as the leaf of a cabbage."
   (paragraph 28)

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What is the moral of "Johnny Chuck Finds the Best Thing in the World"?

- Sometimes you can find happiness by following others.
- You will usually be happy when you are by yourself.
- © Sometimes you must search for happiness.
- You can be happy with what you have.

### Part B

Which detail from the story **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Where are you going in such a hurry?' asked Johnny Chuck."
   (paragraph 23)
- Why I don't know of anything better than my own little home and the warm sunshine and the beautiful blue sky." (paragraph 25)
- © "The sun was very, very warm and they ran so far and they ran so fast . . . ." (paragraph 27)
- "When the long day was over they started up the Lone Little Path past Johnny Chuck's house to their own homes." (paragraph 28)

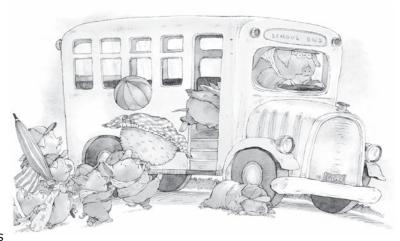
Read the story titled "Me First" by Helen Lester. Then answer questions 4 through 6.

# Me First

by Helen Lester



- 1 Pinkerton was pink, plump, and pushy. He would do anything to be first, even if it meant bouncing off bellies, stepping on snouts, or tying tails.
- 2 "Me first!" he cried when he had been last in line and finished first down the slide.
- 3 "Me first!" he cried at story time, settling on his round bottom with his big head right smack in front of the book.
- 4 And every day in the school trough-a-teria "Me first!" rang out and there was Pinkerton.



<sup>1</sup>snouts—noses

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GO ON ►

- 5 One Saturday, Pinkerton's Pig Scout troop went on a day trip to the beach. Pinkerton was first on the bus and sat in the front row.
- 6 He was first off the bus, first in the water, first out of the water, and first into the picnic basket.
- 7 After lunch the Pig Scouts decided to go for a hike. Off they went, with Pinkerton leading the line, of course. As the Pig Scouts marched across the sand, they heard a faint voice far in the distance.
- 8 The voice called out, "Who would care for a sandwich?" Pinkerton pricked up his pointy ears. Care for a sandwich? Oh yes, me first! he thought, and he began to trot ahead of the others.
- 9 Soon he heard the voice again, closer and louder this time. "WHO WOULD CARE FOR A SANDWICH?"
- 10 "ME FIRST!" cried Pinkerton, kicking up sand and leaving the other Pig Scouts far behind. His imagination almost burst. Peanut butter! Jelly! Two tomatoes! Seven pickles! A slab of cheese! A blob of mayo! A smear of mustard. All for ME! FIRST!
- 11 "WHO WOULD CARE FOR A SANDWICH?"
- 12 Now at a full gallop Pinkerton shrieked, "ME FIRST!" Over a sandy hill he flew and . . . Kerplop. He landed face to face with a small creature with a bump on her nose and fur on her toes.
  - 13 "Am I glad to see you!" she cackled. "I sure could hear you coming: 'Me first. ME FIRST! ME FIRST!' I guess you *really* would care for a sandwich."
  - 14 "Oh, yes indeed," replied Pinkerton. He jumped up and down so fast his teeth jiggled.
  - 15 "Good!" cackled the small creature.
  - 16 Pinkerton waited. One second. Two seconds. Three seconds. "Well?" he asked.
  - 17 "Well what?" replied the small creature.
  - 18 "The sandwich," begged Pinkerton. "Where's . . . the sandwich?"
  - 19 The small creature curtsied.<sup>2</sup> "You're looking at her." She went on, "I am a Sandwitch, and I live in the sand, and you said you would care for a Sandwitch, so here I am. Care for me."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>curtsied—bent her knees and bowed

- 20 All Pinkerton could say was "But I . . ."
- 21 Taking no notice, the Sandwitch continued, "You said, 'Me first.' You wanted to be the first to care for me. Well, congratulations! Now just come along to my sand castle." Grabbing Pinkerton firmly by the sleeve, she led him around a few bends.
- 22 Before he could say "But I . . ." again, the gate to her castle closed.
- 23 "All right, my pink, plump, pushy one, now you care for me. You may have the honor of being the FIRST to powder my nose and comb my toes."
- 24 Seeing no way out, Pinkerton powdered her nose and combed her toes.

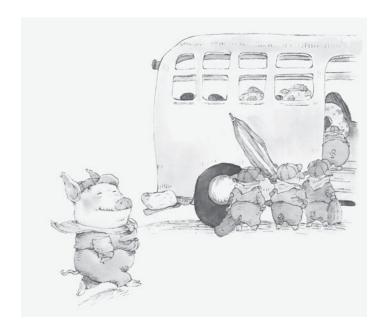


- 25 "Next," she crowed, "you may be the FIRST to put my supper in a bucket and feed me with a shovel." Pinkerton looked around. He had no choice. He put her supper in a bucket and fed her with a shovel.
- 26 Rubbing her tummy, the Sandwitch spoke on: "Finally, after you've had the privilege<sup>3</sup> of being the FIRST to wash my dishes and sweep my castle and do my laundry and curl my hair and tuck me in, you may be the FIRST to tell me a bedtime story."
- 27 Pinkerton washed the dishes, swept the castle, did the laundry, curled the Sandwitch's hair and tucked her in.
- 28 The Sandwitch stretched and yawned loudly. "Now the story. I need my story." Pinkerton was so tired he could barely speak.
- 29 "I don't know any stories," he whimpered.

<sup>3</sup>privilege—special chance

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- 30 "Then how about making up something—oh, how about something concerning a pushy pig who always wanted to be first?"
- 31 Pinkerton sighed and began, "Once upon a time there lived a pig who always wanted to be first, until one day he met a wise Sandwitch—"
- 32 "Wise and beautiful," cut in the Sandwitch.
- 33 "—a wise and beautiful Sandwitch who showed him that FIRST was not always BEST."
- 34 "Aha!" cackled the Sandwitch. She gave Pinkerton a slow, serious, and meaningful wink. "Have you learned something?"
- 35 "Oh yes, yes," said Pinkerton. "I promise I have."
- 36 "In that case, thanks for the care. Goodbye and good luck." She opened the gate and Pinkerton sped off so fast he didn't even notice the delicious sandwich she held out to him.



37 He was just in time to catch the bus. On he scooted—pink, plump, and glad to be last.

From ME FIRST by Helen Lester, illustrated by Lynn Munsinger. Text copyright © Helen Lester. Illustrations copyright © 1992 by Lynn Munsinger. Reprinted by permission of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

What does the phrase **his teeth jiggled** in paragraph 14 show about Pinkerton?

- A Pinkerton feels pain.
- B Pinkerton feels tired.
- © Pinkerton feels excited.
- Pinkerton feels nervous.

# Part B

Which detail from "Me First" shows another example of the answer to Part A?

- Soon he heard the voice again, closer and louder this time." (paragraph 9)
- "His imagination almost burst." (paragraph 10)
- © "He landed face to face with a small creature. . . ." (paragraph 12)
- "Pinkerton waited. One second. Two seconds." (paragraph 16)

5.



## Part A

Which statement **best** describes what the picture adds to the story?

- The picture shows that Pinkerton is hungry.
- The picture shows that the other Scouts are upset at Pinkerton.
- © The picture shows that the Scouts take different items to the beach.
- The picture shows that Pinkerton has learned how to behave.

#### Part B

Which sentence from the story **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- "He would do anything to be first, even if it meant bouncing off bellies, stepping on snouts, or tying tails." (paragraph 1)
- ® "One Saturday, Pinkerton's Pig Scout troop went on a day trip to the beach." (paragraph 5)
- © "After lunch the Pig Scouts decided to go for a hike." (paragraph 7)
- "He was just in time to catch the bus." (paragraph 37)

How do Pinkerton's actions lead him to be tricked by the Sandwitch?

- Pinkerton thinks only about himself, so he keeps the Scouts from meeting the Sandwitch.
- B Pinkerton cares more about eating than helping his fellow Scouts, so he keeps the Sandwitch a secret.
- © Pinkerton wants to be better than the other Scouts, so he volunteers to help the Sandwitch.
- Pinkerton wants to arrive before everyone, so he runs ahead of the Scouts toward the sound of the Sandwitch's voice.

#### Part B

Which detail from "Me First" supports the answer to Part A?

- "Pinkerton was first on the bus and sat in the front row."
   (paragraph 5)
- (B) "As the Pig Scouts marched across the sand, they heard a faint voice far in the distance." (paragraph 7)
- "ME FIRST!' cried Pinkerton, kicking up sand and leaving the other Pig Scouts far behind." (paragraph 10)
- "A slab of cheese! A blob of mayo! A smear of mustard. All for ME! FIRST!" (paragraph 10)

Refer to the stories "Johnny Chuck Finds the Best Thing in the World" and "Me First." Then answer question 7.

7.	Old Mother West Wind and the Sandwitch both try to teach important lessons to characters in the stories.
	Write an essay that explains how Old Mother West Wind's and the Sandwitch's words and actions are important to the plots of the stories. Use what you learned about the characters to support your essay.

# **English Language Arts/Literacy**

<b>7.</b>	Continued	
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STOP



You have come to the end of Unit 1 of the test.

- Review your answers.
- Then, close your test booklet and raise your hand to turn in your test materials.

STOP

# Grade 3 English Language Arts/Literacy Test Booklet

**Practice Test** 

**ELA03ABO**