

# Tests for Higher Standards

## READING/ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS



**GRADE LEVEL TEST**  
FOR THE MARYLAND SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

### Grade 3

Part II

Copyright © 2004, S.S. Flanagan & David E. W. Mott  
Do not reproduce without permission.

### The Crow and the Pitcher

adapted from Aesop's fable

It was a very hot day and the Crow couldn't find any water to drink. He thought that if he did not find any water soon, then he might die of thirst. As he circled around in the sky, he luckily spotted a pitcher resting on the front porch of someone's house. He swooped down to the pitcher and discovered that there was only a little bit of water at the bottom of the pitcher. The Crow tried to put his beak in the opening of the pitcher, but the opening was too small. He was so thirsty and unhappy. He thought about surrendering all hope.



Suddenly, a thought came to him. He picked up a pebble from the ground and dropped it in the pitcher. The water rose slightly, but not enough for the Crow to get a sip. He dropped another pebble and then another. He continued dropping stones into the pitcher and watching the water level climb to the top. At last, the Crow was able bring the water to him, drink it, and save his own life.

3-3.A.6.a

**1. What is the main idea of the story?**

- A** Always try new things.
- B** Little by little, you can meet your goal.
- C** Always keep your head above water.
- D** Always have friends to rely on

3-1.A.4.b

**2. Write a sentence or two describing the Crow's actions after his beak wouldn't fit in the pitcher.**

---



---



---



---



---

3-3.A.3.a

**3. What is this type of story called?**

- A fairy tale
- B nonfiction
- C poetry
- D fable

3-3.A.6.e

**4. Why did the author write this story?**

- A to help people understand nature
- B to tell a fun story that teaches a lesson
- C to teach people about the behavior of crows
- D to teach people about the importance of water

3-3.A.3.d

**5. How would you describe the Crow at the end of the first paragraph?**

- A happy
- B upset
- C refreshed
- D determined

3-3.A.3.d

**6. How does the Crow change from the beginning of the story to the end of the story?**

- A He figured out a way to save his life.
- B He figured out how smart he was.
- C He figured out that he will never be thirsty again.
- D He figured out that water is necessary for life.

3-1.D.3.b

**7. Which word from the story has a suffix?**

- A suddenly
- B enough
- C pebble
- D unhappy

3-1.D.3.b

**8. Which word from the story has a prefix?**

- A slightly
- B unhappy
- C thirsty
- D around

3-3.A.6.c

**9. Read these sentences from the story.**

The Crow tried to put his beak in the opening of the pitcher, but the opening was too small. He was so thirsty and unhappy. He thought about surrendering all hope.

**In your own words, what does the underlined sentence mean?**

---

---

---

---

---

## Melanie's Online Pet Diary

There are two things that I love to do—play with animals and play on the computer. So, I decided to put those two things together. I just got a new puppy so I decided to make an online diary to show how things are going with a new puppy in the house.

### **May 7, 2004**

I got my new puppy today. His name is Max. He's a yellow labrador retriever. He is such a cute little dog! The vet said I should feed him puppy dog food until he gets bigger. Then he can start eating regular dog food. If he stays healthy, he may live 15 or 20 years!

### **May 8, 2004**

Max was sad last night. I think he misses his mom and his brothers and sisters from the litter. The vet told me this might happen so I prepared. Before we got Max, I took a blanket to Mrs. Veeble's house (that's where we got Max) and put the blanket in the box with the puppies. Then, when we picked up Max we brought the blanket home. When he got sad last night, I put the blanket next to him and he calmed down. I think it helped.

### **May 9, 2004**

Max is getting more comfortable here. He doesn't whimper as much at night, and he's eating more food. I think he's starting to see us as his family.

### **May 10, 2004**

Today Mom took me and Max to the park. We ran around all over the place. We played with a rubber ball and with a toy bone that Mom got for him. "He was born to fetch," Mom said. Max is really good at chasing things.

### **May 11, 2004**

I love Max. He is really the most fun dog I've ever seen. He's just so playful and energetic.

Last night, Mom and Dad rented a movie. Max sat on my lap the whole time. He was a well-behaved little angel. I think he fell asleep even.

### **May 12, 2004**

Max is getting better at house training. He goes to the bathroom in the house less and less every day. Max is like a little kid, learning new things all the time. This makes Mom and Dad happy, that's for sure.

### **Pet Links:**

[www.dogsaspets.com](http://www.dogsaspets.com)

[www.vethelp.com](http://www.vethelp.com)

[www.puppylove.com](http://www.puppylove.com)

[www.dogbones.com](http://www.dogbones.com)

[www.puppyplay.com](http://www.puppyplay.com)

To be continued . . .

=====

### **Pictures:**

Click on the picture to get a full-size shot



To be continued . . .

=====

### **Other Fun Stuff:**

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

Find anything!

[www.m-w.com](http://www.m-w.com)

Dictionary

[www.doginfo.org](http://www.doginfo.org)

All you need to know about dogs.

[www.kidsgames.com](http://www.kidsgames.com)

Fun Games

[www.funtrivia.com](http://www.funtrivia.com)

Trivia, trivia, trivia.

3-1.D.2.c

**10. Which word means the opposite of the word new?**

- A old
- B early
- C young
- D good

3-2.A.4.h

**11. Which of the following statements is an opinion?**

- A I just got a new puppy so I decided to make an online diary to show how things are going with a new puppy in the house.
- B The vet said I should feed him puppy dog food until he gets bigger.
- C He was a well-behaved little angel.
- D We played with a rubber ball and with a toy bone that Mom got for him.

3-1.E.4.a

**12. What is the main idea of this passage?**

- A Melanie loves her new puppy and wants to share her experience with others.
- B Melanie wants to teach people how to care for puppies.
- C Melanie wants to warn people that taking care of a puppy is too much work.
- D Melanie wants to show people the way different types of dogs act.

3-1.E.4.h

**13. What can you conclude from the section titled May 11, 2004?**

- A Melanie is growing bored with Max.
- B Max is playful, but he knows when to settle down.
- C Melanie's parents do not like Max.
- D Max does not like movies.

3-2.A.2.d

**14. Which link on the right side of "Melanie's Online Pet Diary" is in the wrong place and should be moved?**

- A [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)  
Find anything!
- B [www.kidsgames.com](http://www.kidsgames.com)  
Fun Games
- C [www.doginfo.org](http://www.doginfo.org)  
All you need to know about dogs.
- D [www.funtrivia.com](http://www.funtrivia.com)  
Trivia, trivia, trivia.

3-2.A.2.d

**15. Melanie wants to write about things she did to get ready for Max before she brought him home.**

**Where should she put this information?**

- A in the “Pet Links” section
- B in the diary section before “May 7, 2004”
- C in the “Other Fun Stuff” section
- D in the diary section after “May 12, 2004”

3-2.A.4.g

**16. Based on what you read in the passage, write a sentence or two describing what will happen to Max as he gets bigger.**

---

---

---

---

3-1.D.3.a

**17. Which phrase from the passage contains an idiom?**

- A Max is really good at chasing things.
- B Then he can start eating regular dog food.
- C He was a well-behaved little angel.
- D This makes Mom and Dad happy, that’s for sure.

3-1.A.4.d

**18. What is Max doing that makes Melanie’s Mom and Dad happy?**

- A He is getting better at house training.
- B He is watching movies.
- C He is eating puppy dog food.
- D He is sleeping better at night.

3-2.A.4.h

**19. Which of the following statements is an opinion?**

- A He’s a yellow labrador retriever.
- B He goes to the bathroom in the house less and less every day.
- C The vet told me this might happen so I prepared.
- D He is such a cute little dog!

3-2.A.5.a

**20. Read this line from the story.**

Max is like a little kid . . .

**What is this type of writing called?**

- A** metaphor
- B** simile
- C** alliteration
- D** hyperbole

1-SAMPLE





## Snarling Darlings

by Joseph Addison



Once upon a time there was an old woman named Miss Wugglewumpus. She was the owner of an orange and white cat named Miss Meow and a grey bulldog named Trevor. Now, like most cats and dogs, Miss Meow and Trevor fought. All day and all night Miss Meow and Trevor would fight. They would chase each other round the house. They would scratch. They would bite. They would snarl. They would shout names at each other from across the yard. If they weren't eating, they were fighting.

One day Miss Wugglewumpus's neighbor, Mr. Cross had finally had enough. All day and all night he could hear the fighting sounds—barks and screeches, yelps and whines. He decided to put an end to the nonsense. He walked into Miss Wugglewumpus's backyard and pulled the two animals apart. "Now stop your fighting!" he yelled at Miss Meow and Trevor.

Miss Meow looked shocked and shouted back at Mr. Cross, "Why don't you mind your own business, sir?"

Trevor growled like a freight train and stood next to Miss Meow. "Yes," he barked, "why don't you leave us alone?"

Then the animals leaped at Mr. Cross. He turned and ran, just escaping the yard as Miss Meow clawed at his back and Trevor snapped at his ankles. As soon as Mr. Cross was gone, the two turned on each other and continued to fight. They are still fighting today.

The point of the story is this—although two creatures may do a lot of snarling, they will always be each other's darling.

adapted from "The Dog and Cat" from *The Fables of La Fontaine*

3-3.A.3.e

### 21. Which cartoon characters are most like Miss Meow and Trevor?

- A Mickey Mouse and Pluto (a mouse who acts like a person and his pet dog)
- B Tom and Jerry (a cat and a mouse who live in the same house)
- C SpongeBob SquarePants and Patrick Star (a sponge who acts like a person and his best friend, a starfish)
- D Scooby-Doo and Scrappy (a crime-fighting dog and his little nephew dog)

3-1.D.3.a

**22. As it is used in the story, what does the word snap mean?**

- A the sound a twig makes when you step on it
- B the sound of jaws closing suddenly
- C a sound your fingers make
- D to take a picture

3-1.D.2.b

**23. Which word belongs in the same word family as the word fought?**

- A fight
- B argue
- C brought
- D not

3-1.A.4.d

**24. What was the first thing Miss Meow did when Mr. Cross came into the yard?**

- A She attacked him.
- B She asked him what he was doing.
- C She shouted back at him.
- D She kept fighting with Trevor.

3-1.D.3.a

**25. Which phrase from the story contains an idiom?**

- A . . . “Why don’t you mind your own business, sir?”
- B Once upon a time there was an old woman named Miss Wugglewumpus.
- C He walked into Miss Wugglewumpus’s backyard and pulled the two animals apart.
- D They are still fighting today.

3-3.A.8.b

**26. If Mr. Cross came back to the yard, what would most likely happen?**

- A Miss Meow and Trevor would stop fighting with each other for good.
- B Miss Wugglewumpus would ask him to leave.
- C Miss Meow and Trevor would chase Mr. Cross out of the yard.
- D Miss Meow would decide she wants to go home with Mr. Cross.

3-1.D.3.a

**27. Based on what you read in the story, what does the word whine mean?**

- A a type of drink
- B the sound an animal might make during a fight
- C being sad
- D a sound the wind makes on a cold day

3-3.A.8.b

**28. Think about what you read in the story. If Miss Meow had to go away for a long time, how do you think Trevor would feel?**

---

---

---

---

3-1.E.4.a

**29. What is the main idea of this passage?**

- A Just because two creatures fight doesn't mean they don't like each other.
- B Mr. Cross does not like cats and dogs.
- C Fighting and arguing is always wrong and should be stopped.
- D People and animals just do not like each other no matter how hard they try.

3-3.A.8.b

**30. Which of the following is most likely true?**

- A The flowers in Mr. Cross's yard have been trampled by Miss Meow and Trevor.
- B Miss Meow and Trevor keep Mr. Cross awake at night.
- C Mr. Cross's pets are afraid to come outside.
- D Miss Wugglewumpus and Mr. Cross are best friends.

3-3.A.3.e

**31. Based on what you read in the passage, Miss Meow and Trevor fight because**

- A they like to bother Mr. Cross.
- B they don't like each other.
- C they like to entertain Miss Wugglewumpus.
- D they like each other.

3-1.E.4.c

**32. What caused Mr. Cross to come into Miss Wugglewumpus's yard?**

- A He wanted to make Miss Meow and Trevor stop fighting.
- B He came over to visit with Miss Wugglewumpus.
- C He is friends with Miss Meow and Trevor.
- D He likes to see cats and dogs playing together.

3-1.E.4.c

**33. Why did Miss Meow look shocked?**

- A** She couldn't believe Trevor would fight with her.
- B** She was afraid of Mr. Cross.
- C** She couldn't believe Mr. Cross was trying to stop her fight with Trevor.
- D** She was happy to have Mr. Cross helping her.

3-3.A.7.d

**34. Read this line from the story.**

Trevor growled like a freight train. . .

**What is this type of writing called?**

- A** hyperbole
- B** personification
- C** metaphor
- D** simile

**The Land of Nod**  
by Robert Louis Stevenson

From breakfast on through all the day  
At home among my friends I stay,  
But every night I go abroad  
Afar into the land of Nod.

All by myself I have to go,  
With none to tell me what to do—  
All alone beside the streams  
And up the mountain-sides of dreams.

The strangest things are there for me,  
Both things to eat and things to see,  
And many frightening sights abroad  
Till morning in the land of Nod.

Try as I like to find the way,  
I never can get back by day,  
Nor can remember plain and clear  
The curious music that I hear.

3-3.A.7.a

**35. What makes this a work of poetry?**

- A** It has few sentences.
- B** It has stanzas.
- C** It has a first-person narrator.
- D** It explores internal thoughts.

3-1.E.4.a

**36. What is the speaker trying to say in the poem?**

- A** Dreams allow you to escape the day.
- B** The speaker is discussing the idea of running away from home.
- C** The land of Nod is a scary place.
- D** The speaker prefers day to night.

3-3.A.4.b

**37. Read this line from the poem.**

Try as I like to find the way,  
I never can get back by day,

**What do these lines mean in the context of the poem?**

- A The speaker is lost.
- B The speaker enjoys daydreaming.
- C The speaker can only visit Nod during the night.
- D The speaker wants to return home to his friends.

3-3.A.4.b

**38. Read this line from the poem.**

Till morning in the land of Nod.

**What does this line mean in the context of the poem?**

- A The speaker is waking up.
- B The speaker cannot remember the dream.
- C The land of Nod does not have nighttime.
- D The land of Nod is only accessible in morning.

3-3.A.3.f

**39. In your own words, how do you know that the speaker of the poem is a first-person narrator?**

---

---

---

---