

# Helping Your Child with the New York State ELA and Math Test

PS 229Q

Ms. Gonzalez

Mrs. Sirianni

# What Does This Mean for Testing?

- ❑ The tests will become significantly harder.
- ❑ **In ELA, students will be expected:**
  - a. To read more complex texts.
  - b. To draw conclusions and make inferences from the given text.
  - c. Write essays that must include evidence from the text to support their reasoning, conclusions and inferences.
  - d. Determine a theme, main idea, author's purpose, how it is organized and structured.
  - e. Evaluate a text, such as determining the point of view.

# What Does This Mean for Testing?

## □ In Math, students will be expected:

- a. To show a deep understanding of the concepts by applying mathematical skills to solve real world problems.
- b. To complete multi-step word problems that involve more than one operation.
- c. To use a variety of strategies to solve word problems such as making a table, making an organized list, writing an expression or equation, etc.
- d. To demonstrate an understanding of mathematical terms, for example, knowing the difference between an equation and an expression.
- e. To determine if an answer is reasonable, to look at how a problem is solved and explain if the work is correct or incorrect and why.

# Types of Informational Texts

- **Expository texts** – textbooks, magazines, news articles, interviews, reports, etc.
- **Argumentative** – opinion/editorials, speeches, advertisements, journal articles, government documents, memoirs, etc.
- **Instructional** – training manuals, contracts, user guides, recipes, etc.
- **Narrative** – biographies, autobiographies, news articles, essays, interviews, agendas, etc.

# Grade 3

2014 Grade 3 Common Core English Language Arts Test Design					
	Day 1	Day 2		Day 3	
	Book 1	Book 2		Book 3	Total
		Reading	Writing		
Passages	5	1	2	3	11
Multiple-Choice Questions	30	7			37
Short-Response Questions			3	5	8
Extended-Response Questions			1	1	2
	Total Number of Literary Passages				4-7
	Total Number of Informational Passages				4-7

# Grade 3 Comparison

- Grade 3 ELA State Test  
2010

*Excerpt from The Snowman's Gift by Marcia Wuest*

When a snowman melts, it leaves us a gift that lasts all year. To find out

what this gift is, let's take a closer look at what happens to the snowman.

It has to be warm outside for a snowman to melt. As the sun shines, it

makes heat. We can't see heat, but we know it's there because we feel the warmth on our hands and faces.

1. The title of the article is "The Snowman's Gift." What is the snowman's "gift"? How does the snowman give this gift? Use details from the article in your answer.

What is the snowman's gift? \_\_\_\_\_

How does the snowman give this gift?  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Grade 3 Sample ELA State  
Test 2012

*Excerpt for The Poplar Tree by Flora J. Cooke*

Long ago the poplar used to hold out its branches like other trees. It tried to see how far it could spread them.

Once at sunset an old man came through the forest where the poplar trees lived. The man held something under his cloak. It was a pot of gold-the very pot of gold that lies at the foot of the rainbow.

1. **Describe the way the poplar grows his branches.**

**Explain why the tree decides to grow them this way and how the actions of the Old Man, Iris, Zeus, and Mercury lead to his decision. Use details from the story to support your answer.**

In your response, be sure to include the following:

- the direction in which the poplar tree's branches grow
- the events that made the tree's branches grow this way
- the roles that the Old Man, Iris, Zeus, and Mercury play in the decision
- details from the story to support your answer

# Grade 4

2014 Grade 4 Common Core English Language Arts Test Design					
	Day 1	Day 2		Day 3	
	Book 1	Book 2		Book 3	Total
		Reading	Writing		
Passages	5	1	2	3	11
Multiple-Choice Questions	30	7			37
Short-Response Questions			3	5	8
Extended-Response Questions			1	1	2
	Total Number of Literary Passages				4-7
	Total Number of Informational Passages				4-7

# Grade 4 Comparison

- Grade 4 ELA State Test  
2010

*Excerpt from Belly Flops and Gutter Balls by JoLynne Ricker*

Whalen Lewis loved sports. He watched them on TV. He listened to them on the radio. He read about them in the newspaper.

1. This story is **mostly about how**
  - A. being good at sports takes practice**
  - B. playing sports with a friend can be fun**
  - C. being an athlete means trying many sports**
  - D. playing sports is better than watching sports**

- Grade 4 Sample ELA State  
Test 2012

*Excerpt from The Hawks and Their Friends by Ellen C. Babbitt*

A family of Hawks lived on the western shore of a lake not far from the great forest. On the northern shore of this lake lived a Lion, King of Beasts. On the eastern shore lived Jingfisher. On the southern shore of the lake lived a Turtle.

1. Which piece of dialogue supports the story's **main theme**?
  - A. "Let us stay here to-night," they said, "and see what we can find in the morning." (paragraph 7)**
  - B. "Go back quickly and comfort my friend your mate, and say that I am coming." (paragraph 16)**
  - C. "Sooner or later these men will get our young." (paragraph 31)**
  - D. "Why do you come at this hour of the night?" (paragraph 33)**

# Grade 5

2014 Grade 5 Common Core English Language Arts Test Design					
	Day 1	Day 2		Day 3	
	Book 1	Book 2		Book 3	Total
		Reading	Writing		
Passages	6	1	2	3	12
Multiple-Choice Questions	42	7			49
Short-Response Questions			3	5	8
Extended-Response Questions			1	1	2
	Total Number of Literary Passages				4-8
	Total Number of Informational Passages				4-8

# Grade 5 Comparison

- Grade 5 ELA State Test  
2010

*Excerpt from Tell Me Again by Else Minarik*

“Tell me again how you learned to ride a horse,” I would ask my father when I was a little girl in Denmark. I was no more than four years old—too little to learn to ride a horse by myself. But I liked to hear my father tell his story.

1. How does Else feel about horses after watching her father ride Fiery?

- A. She wants a horse just like Fiery.**
- B. She has no interest in riding horses.**
- C. She would like to have a smaller horse.**
- D. She thinks horses should not go into the sea.**

- Grade 5 Sample ELA State  
Test 2012

*Excerpt from The Secret Garden by Frances Burnett*

To speak robin to a robin is like speaking French to a Frenchman. Dickon always spoke it to the robin himself, so the queer gibberish he used when he spoke to humans did not matter in the least. The robin thought he spoke gibberish to them because they were not intelligent enough to understand feathered speech.

**Extended Response:**

1. Both stories are told from the perspective of an animal. How does this perspective affect how stories are told? Compare and contrast how Black Beauty and the robin view their surroundings. Use details from both passages, describe how the animals’ perspectives influence how events are described.

# Grade 6

2014 Grade 6 Common Core English Language Arts Test Design					
	Day 1	Day 2		Day 3	
	Book 1	Book 2		Book 3	Total
		Reading	Writing		
Passages	6	1	2	3	12
Multiple-Choice Questions	42	7			49
Short-Response Questions			3	5	8
Extended-Response Questions			1	1	2
	Total Number of Literary Passages				4-7
	Total Number of Informational Passages				7-8

# Grade 6 Comparison

- Grade 6 ELA State Test 2010

## *Excerpt from Gold Fever by PBS website*

In the cities and towns of the East, it seemed almost like wartime. Thousands of men left their homes and families behind and headed for California. Women moved in with relatives or fended for themselves. Children wrote letters to their faraway fathers and waited impatiently for them to come home. It was 1849, and the California Gold Rush had begun.

### **1. Think about the difficulties faced by gold miners in “Gold Fever” and “A Gold Miner’s Tale.”**

Write an essay in which you discuss the hardships of life as a gold miner or gold “rusher.”

Use details from **both the article and the poem to support your answer.**

In your essay, be sure to

- discuss the hardships of life as a gold miner or gold “rusher”
- include details from **both the article and the poem**

- Grade 6 Sample ELA State Test 2012

## *Excerpt from Icarus and Daedalus by Josephine Peabody*

He once built, for King Minos of Crete, a wonderful Labyrinth of winding ways so cunningly tangled up and twisted around that, once inside, you could never find your way out again without a magic clue. But the king’s favor veered with the 5 wind, and one day he had his master architect imprisoned in a tower. Daedalus managed to escape from his cell; but it seemed impossible to leave the island, since every ship that came or went was well guarded by order of the king.

### **Extended Response:**

1. In both the Demosthenes biography and the Icarus and Daedalus myth the main characters exhibit determination in pursuit of their goals. Did determination help both main characters reach their goals, or did it lead them to tragedy? Write an argument for whether you believe determination helped or hurt the two main characters.

# Grade 3

## Grade 3 Test Design

Book	Number of Multiple-Choice Questions	Number of Short-Response Questions	Number of Extended-Response Questions	Total Number of Questions
1	24	0	0	24
2	24	0	0	24
3	0	5	3	8
<b>Total</b>	48	5	3	56

# Grade 3 Comparison

## Grade 3 State Test 2010

- ❖ Single step multiple choice questions.

## Grade 3 Sample~ 2012

- ❖ Multi-step word problems as multiple choice questions.

9 There were 9 people fishing at a lake. Each person caught 6 fish.  
What was the total number of fish caught by the 9 people?

- A 15
- B 48
- C 54
- D 62

5 A third grade class decided to sell boxes of cookies to help raise money for a school trip. Each box has two bags of cookies inside, and each bag holds 14 cookies. If each student needed to sell 4 boxes of cookies, how many cookies did each student need to sell?

- A 28
- B 56
- C 112
- D 224

# Grade 4

## Grade 4 Test Design

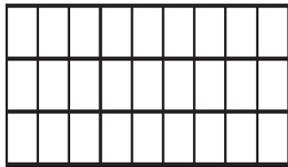
Book	Number of Multiple-Choice Questions	Number of Short-Response Questions	Number of Extended-Response Questions	Total Number of Questions
1	24	0	0	24
2	25	0	0	25
3	0	6	4	10
<b>Total</b>	49	6	4	59

# Grade 4 Comparison

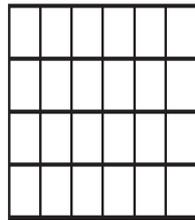
## Grade 4 State Test 2010

- ❖ Picture model to work with, only finding figures with matching perimeter.

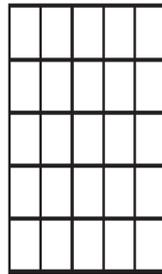
47 Ms. Garcia is shopping for a new rug.



Rug A



Rug B



Rug C

Ms. Garcia compared the perimeters of Rug A, Rug B, and Rug C.

Which two rugs have the same perimeter?

*Show your work.*

## Grade 4 Sample 2012

- ❖ No picture model, student given the area and needs to find the perimeter, but is not explicitly told perimeter is what needs to be found.

- 4 The area of Ken's rectangular garden is 480 square feet. The garden is 24 feet wide. What is the length of fencing Ken will need to buy in order to fence in the garden completely on all four sides?  
**Show your work.**

# Grade 5

## Grade 5 Test Design

Book	Number of Multiple-Choice Questions	Number of Short-Response Questions	Number of Extended-Response Questions	Total Number of Questions
1	24	0	0	24
2	25	0	0	25
3	0	6	4	10
<b>Total</b>	49	6	4	59

# Grade 5 Comparison

- Grade 5 State Test 2010
- ❖ Simple identification of place value~ need only memorize place value chart.

- Grade 5 Sample 2012
- ❖ Demonstrates understanding of place value and what it means in multiple forms.

4 The total number of people who visited the Ocean Adventure Park last year was 7,040,836. What is the value of the digit 4 in this number?

- A four
- B forty
- C four thousand
- D forty thousand

4  $1(10,000) + 2(1,000) + 4(100) + 3(10) + 2(1) + 5(1/10) + 3(1/100)$ .

Which number below is one-tenth of the expanded form above?

- A 12422.53
- B 1243.253
- C 12432.53
- D 12432.43

# Grade 6

## Grade 6 Test Design

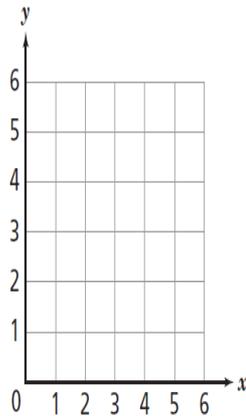
Book	Number of Multiple-Choice Questions	Number of Short-Response Questions	Number of Extended-Response Questions	Total Number of Questions
1	28	0	0	28
2	27	0	0	27
3	0	6	4	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>65</b>

# Grade 6 Comparison

## Grade 6 State Test 2010

- ❖ Constructed response- Basic knowledge of how to plot points on a coordinate plane.

29 Matthew plans to plot point A at (2, 3).



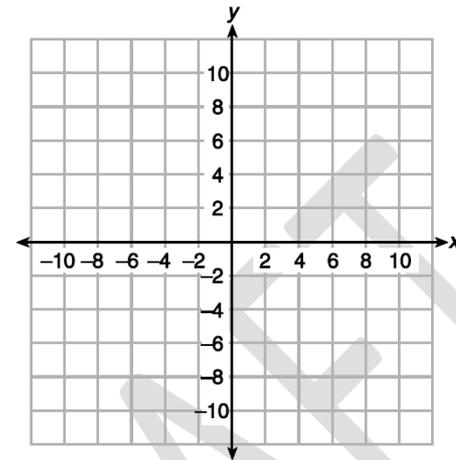
Plot and label point A on the coordinate plane using Matthew's coordinates.

On the lines below, explain how you determined where to plot the coordinates.

- Grade 6 Sample 2012
- ❖ Multiple choice requiring knowledge of plotting points on a coordinate plane, then finding the area of the quadrilateral created by the two triangles.

9

Triangle  $PQR$  and triangle  $QRS$  have vertices  $P(-9,7)$ ,  $Q(4,7)$ ,  $R(4,-3)$ , and  $S(10,-3)$ .



What is the area, in square units, of quadrilateral  $PQSR$  which is formed by the two triangles?

- A 30
- B 65
- C 95
- D 190

# How Can You Help Your Child

## ☐ Math

- Be sure your child is fluent in their basic facts~ adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing; work on the ones they are weakest in.
- Have them try to solve a problem in more than one way.
- When they explain how they came to their answer, encourage them to use the proper math vocabulary.
- Encourage them to read the problem slowly and carefully, making note of everything it is asking them to find by circling or underlining the questions.
- Encourage them to check their work to see if the answer makes sense.

# Help Your Child Become a Better Mathematician

- Value math – play games that help children develop decision making and mental math skills such as Monopoly, Clue, and Pay Day.
- Show them that math is everywhere and part of everyday life.
- Point out and discuss the different ways that family members use math in their jobs.
- Set high standards.
- Have your child help you cook by reading and following the recipes or adjusting the recipes.
- Make a supermarket trip a learning opportunity for estimating, finding the unit rate, etc.

# How Can You Help Your Child

## □ ELA

- Read both fiction and nonfiction texts.
- Ask questions about the text. Two types of questions you can ask: thinking questions and questions that the answer can be found in the story.
- Ask students for text evidence when answering a question.
- When coming across unknown vocabulary words, try to make a personal connection to the word.
- When reading fiction ask questions such as what motivated the character to act the way they did, what traits does the character have, what is the central message, how does the character change, etc.
- When reading nonfiction ask questions such as what is the main idea and supporting details? What is the author's point of view? Comparing and contrasting two texts on the same topic – How are the main ideas the same? Different?

# The Night Before the Test

- ❑ Play a family game for fun~ take the focus off the test so they can relax and not feel test anxiety.
- ❑ Make sure your child has 2 or 3 sharpened pencils.
- ❑ Have your child go to bed early and get plenty of rest.

# The Morning Before the Test

- Encourage your child to do his/her best.
- Have your child dress comfortably/layers.
- Have your child eat a nutritious breakfast.
- Relax and remain positive.
- Make sure your child arrives at school on time.
- Do not send your child to school if he/she is ill.
- If your child wears glasses, make sure he/she brings them to school.