



Common Core State Standards Prep Grade 6 English Language Arts

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To the Student

Tips for Answering Multiple-Choice Questions

Multiple-choice questions have a **stem**, which is a question or an incomplete sentence, followed by four answer choices. You should select only one answer choice. Here are some tips to help you correctly answer multiple-choice questions on the Common Core English Language Arts Test:



- Read each passage carefully.
- Read each question and think about the answer. You may look back to the reading selection as often as necessary.
- Answer all questions on your answer sheet. Do not mark any answers to questions in your test booklet.
- For each question, choose the best answer, and completely fill in the circle in the space provided on your answer sheet.
- If you do not know the answer to a question, skip it and go on. You may return to it later if you have time.
- If you finish the section of the test that you are working on early, you may review your answers in that section only. Don't go on to the next section.

Writer's Checklist for Answering Open-Ended Questions

- Keep the central idea or topic in mind.
- Keep your audience in mind.
- Support your ideas with details, explanations, and examples.
- State your ideas in a clear sequence.
- Include an opening and a closing.
- Use a variety of words and vary your sentence structure.
- State your opinion or conclusion clearly.
- Capitalize, spell, and use punctuation correctly.
- Write neatly.

Part 1: Poems

Directions: Read the poem, “Being the Youngest,” and then answer the questions that follow.

“Being the Youngest”

by Marie Devers

My brother thinks he has it tough
’cause he’s the oldest sibling.
My sister says her life’s more rough,
but I think she is fibbing,

’Cause I’m the youngest fruit
blooming on the family tree,
and when they pick or play a trick,
they always fix on me.

My family likes to think
because I’m spoiled as old cheese,
that I’m OK with hand-me-downs,
pet names, and being teased,

But just because the youngest
gets a multitude of gifts,
doesn’t mean our elder siblings
get to treat us like misfits.

When sister gets a wardrobe
that she tells me not to touch,
I flip through her new clothes
and say the time is not that much.

Soon she’ll be looking in *my* closet,
seeing all of what she wore,
and I’ll remind her that they’re mine;
she can’t wear them anymore.

When brother tells me I can’t join
’cause only big guys get to play,
I remind him that the small fry
can be essential in a way.

I show him how I move
and dart and shift fast as a cat,
and remind him that it’s been
years since he could move like that.

My brother and my sister
like to joke, and so do I.
I may be the youngest,
but we still see eye to eye,

And though we pull these pranks
and like to make fun of each other,
my best friends in the world
are my big sister and big brother!

- 1 Read this line from the poem.

**I may be the youngest,
but we still see eye to eye,**

The author uses this phrase to reveal that the narrator

- A is the same size as her siblings
- B gets along with her siblings
- C wishes for a younger sibling
- D ignores her siblings most times

- 2 Read these lines from the poem.

**But just because the youngest
gets a multitude of gifts,
doesn't mean our elders
get to treat us like misfits.**

What does the word "multitude" mean?

- F fast delivery
- G subtraction
- H great number
- J opportunity

- 3 This poem is **mostly** about

- A dressing up
- B playing games
- C relationships
- D achievements

- 4 What do all three siblings have in common?

- F They like to fool around.
- G They are picky about clothes.
- H They like to play sports.
- J They like to write poetry.

- 5 Read these lines from the poem.

**I show him how I move
and dart and shift fast as a cat,
and remind him that's it's been
years since he could move like
that.**

The author **most likely** uses this description to

- A indicate that the narrator is unkind
- B show the narrator's sense of humor
- C describe how young the narrator is
- D show that the narrator looks like a cat

- 6 Read these lines from the poem.

**My family likes to think
because I'm spoiled as old cheese,
that I'm OK with hand-me-downs,
pet names, and being teased,**

What does the speaker mean by “spoiled as old cheese”?

- F** sour
- G** treated well
- H** expensive
- J** spoken of badly

- 7 Read these lines from the poem.

**And though we pull these pranks
and like to make fun of each other,
my best friends in the world
are my big sister and big brother!**

What does the word “pranks” mean?

- A** gifts
- B** awards
- C** parents
- D** jokes

- 8** Explain how the narrator acts with her sister and brother. Use details from the poem to support your answer.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

- 9** Write a short poem about a relationship that you have. Describe how you and the other person act together. You can write about your sister, your brother, or a friend. Make sure that the poem describes your relationship.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Part 3: Nonfiction

Directions: Read the article “Norman Rockwell: A Small-Town American Artist” and answer the questions that follow.

Norman Rockwell: A Small-Town American Artist

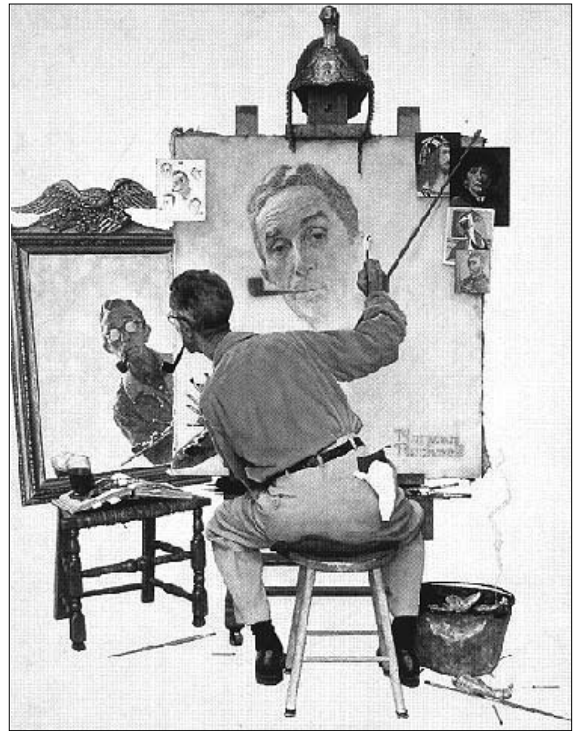
by Tracey Vasil Biscontini

“Without thinking too much about it in specific terms, I was showing the America I knew and observed to others who might not have noticed.”

—Norman Rockwell

One of America’s most beloved artists, Norman Rockwell, was born in New York City in 1894. Rockwell showed a love for art at an early age. Rockwell’s father was a businessperson, who enjoyed reading novels aloud to his children. Rockwell treasured this time with his family, and he often sketched the characters in the stories.

As a boy, Rockwell spent much of his time drawing and painting. In high school, he went to a special school for artists called the National Academy of Design. Rockwell did not like this school, however. He said that it was “stiff and scholarly.” He soon left to attend a different school called the Art Students League. He felt much more at home at this school.



When Rockwell was only 16, he sold some of his sketches to a greeting-card company. The next year, he landed his first full-time job as an artist. He had the chance to illustrate a series of children’s books. Other jobs followed this job, and each job was a little bit better than the last. Before long, the young Rockwell was on his way to becoming a famous artist.

When Rockwell was 22, he wanted to sell his work to *The Saturday Evening Post*. Taking such a risk made Rockwell nervous, however. *The Post* was one of the most popular magazines of his time. Rockwell made the sale! Like most of his illustrations, the one he had just sold showed a scene from everyday life in America. The title of the picture was “Mother’s Day Off.” It showed an uncomfortable boy who

was nicely dressed and pushing a baby carriage (with his brother or sister inside) past a group of boys wearing baseball uniforms and snickering at him. Readers liked Rockwell's cover so much that *The Post* asked him to draw other covers. Amazingly, Rockwell drew 321 magazine covers for *The Post*. People from all over the world enjoyed his work.

During the 1930s, Rockwell married a schoolteacher named Mary Barstow. The couple had three sons: Jarvis, Thomas, and Peter. During this time, a book publisher asked Rockwell to draw the covers of some classic books, including Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *Tom Sawyer*. Rockwell was excited about this opportunity. He traveled to Hannibal, Missouri, which was the setting for many of Twain's books. Rockwell felt that his illustrations would be more lifelike if he could see what Twain had seen.

Later in his life, with the help of his son Tom, Rockwell published his autobiography, *My Adventures as an Illustrator*. Then, after working for *The Post* for 47 years, he left to work for another magazine called *Look*. Rockwell's illustrations in *Look* were much more serious. They were often about issues such as civil rights and the war on poverty. Some of Rockwell's most famous illustrations were published in *Look*.

One of them, "The Problem We All Live With," showed a young African-American girl entering a school that had been only for white students. She was escorted into the school by two U.S. marshals, who were there to protect her from the people who wanted black children and white children to go to different schools. Some people think that Rockwell's drawings in *Look* are his best work. In 1977, President Gerald R. Ford gave Rockwell a very big honor. He awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Norman Rockwell received the award for the beautiful way in which he showed both the people and the country of the United States of America in his work.



Rockwell kept on painting until his death at the age of 84. He even left an unfinished painting on his easel. His son Tom published a second volume of his father's autobiography, which covered the last 20 years of his father's life. People today still enjoy looking at Norman Rockwell's beautiful illustrations.

1 Read this excerpt from the article.

It showed an uncomfortable boy nicely dressed and pushing a baby carriage (with his brother or sister inside) past a group of boys wearing baseball uniforms and snickering at him.

Which word means about the same as “snickering”?

- A looking
- B laughing
- C drawing
- D pointing

2 How is the information in this article organized?

- F The author lists the events in Norman Rockwell’s life in chronological order.
- G The author explains Norman Rockwell’s style of painting and then describes some of his work.
- H The author lists the most important information about Norman Rockwell first and then follows it with minor details.
- J The author explains a problem that Norman Rockwell faced during his childhood and then tells how he solved it.

3 According to the article, Rockwell **most likely** went to work for the magazine *Look* in order to

- A win a medal
- B travel to Missouri
- C get his work on a cover
- D paint more serious issues

4 According to the article, what did Norman Rockwell do at age 16?

- F illustrated children’s books
- G sold his work to a magazine
- H worked at his first full-time job
- J sold his work to a greeting-card company

- 5 Read this quotation from the beginning of the story.

“Without thinking too much about it in specific terms, I was showing the America I knew and observed to others who might not have noticed.”

—Norman Rockwell

This author **most likely** uses this quotation to

- A show that many people liked Norman Rockwell’s work
 - B describe Norman Rockwell’s first painting
 - C point out the kind of art that Norman Rockwell created
 - D suggest that people in America did not pay attention
- 6 According to the information in the article, Norman Rockwell can **best** be described as
- F curious
 - G hardworking
 - H nervous
 - J fun-loving
- 7 According to the passage, why did Rockwell travel to Hannibal, Missouri?
- A to publish his autobiography
 - B to meet the author Mark Twain
 - C to draw his first magazine cover
 - D to make his art look realistic

8 Read this excerpt from the article.

She was escorted into the school by two U.S. marshals, who were there to protect her from the people who wanted black children and white children to go to different schools.

Which word means almost the same as “escorted”?

- F** pushed
G sent
H accompanied
J blocked

9 Use details from the article to support the idea that people liked Norman Rockwell's art.

[illegible]

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Part 4: Listening

Directions: You are going to listen to an article called “The Mighty Amazon.” Then you will answer questions about the story.

You will listen to the story twice. The first time you hear the story, listen carefully but do not take notes. As you listen to the story the second time, you may want to take notes.

You may use these notes to answer the questions that follow. Only your answers will count in your score.

Take Notes While You Listen

- 1 According to the article, people destroyed Amazon rain forests to
- A sell wood from trees
 - B take fish from the water
 - C build houses on land
 - D sell fish to pet stores
- 2 According to the article, which kind of monkey makes a lot of noise?
- F toucan
 - G spider
 - H wooly
 - J howler
- 3 The author **most likely** compares a harpy eagle's claws to those of a bear in order to
- A describe how they are shaped
 - B show how large they are
 - C prove that they are sharp
 - D show how they are used
- 4 According to the article, the **main** difference between anaconda snakes in the movies and real anaconda snakes is that real anacondas
- F are smaller
 - G are lighter
 - H hide from people
 - J live in trees
- 5 What do the harpy eagle and the howler monkey have in common?
- A They are both very large.
 - B They are both very gentle.
 - C They both live in trees.
 - D They both have sharp claws.
- 6 According to the article, why might the Amazon River look like a large snake from the air?
- F It is very wide.
 - G It twists and turns.
 - H It moves quickly.
 - J It is very long.
- 7 The information in this article suggests that the work of the people trying to save the rain forest is
- A not often discussed
 - B happening very quickly
 - C not finished yet
 - D hard to understand

8 Read this sentence from the article.

“The tiny spider monkey in the Amazon rain forest keeps safe from predators like eagles by hiding in the treetops.”

Which word means almost the same as “predators”?

- F** storms
- G** falling
- H** hunters
- J** animals

- 9** Complete the chart below by identifying two animals from the Amazon rain forest and describing what they are like.

ANIMALS OF THE RAIN FOREST

Animal of the Rain Forest	What It Is Like

Part 5: Capitalization, Punctuation, and Grammar

1. Choose the answer that shows the correct capitalization.

A A flock of Robins headed south before the worst of winter came to the northeast.
B A flock of robins headed South before the worst of winter came to the northeast.
C A flock of robins headed south before the worst of Winter came to the northeast.
D A flock of robins headed south before the worst of winter came to the Northeast.

2. Which word best fills in the blank in the sentence below?

The baking contest judge said, "The first _____ pies and cakes are delicious."

F baker's
G baker
H bakers
J bakers'

3. Which of these is not a complete sentence?

A The clown made balloon animals.
B Some guests took the balloons home.
C Many balloons were popped.
D Having fun at a party.

4. Choose the answer that is not grammatically correct.

F The bus stop is a block away.
G It is on the opposite side of the street.
H Without a traffic light crossing that street can be very dangerous.
J Once in a while drivers will stop to let pedestrians get across safely.

5. Which word from the sentence below is the direct object?

From a trunk in the attic, Mother found a costume for me to wear to the party.

- A** trunk
 - B** costume
 - C** wear
 - D** party
6. Choose the answer that shows the correct punctuation.
- F** Along, the muddy creek bank animal footprints could be seen.
 - G** Along the muddy, creek bank animal footprints could be seen.
 - H** Along the muddy creek bank, animal footprints could be seen.
 - J** Along the muddy creek bank animal footprints, could be seen.
7. What change should be made in the sentence below?

An angry blue jay dive-bombed the Duffy's cat that got too close to it's nest.

- A** change *bombed* to *bomb*
- B** change *Duffy's* to *Duffies*
- C** change *too* to *to*
- D** change *it's* to *its*

8. What modifies "hitting and fielding skills" in the sentence below?

Jerry's hitting and fielding skills were the reasons why he was picked as the catcher for the all-star baseball team.

- F** Jerry's
 - G** reasons
 - H** catcher
 - J** baseball team
9. Choose the answer that shows the correct punctuation.
- A** The landscaper came to redo; the plantings around the house he brought azaleas, rhododendrons, and hydrangeas.
 - B** The landscaper came to redo the plantings; around the house he brought azaleas, rhododendrons, and hydrangeas.
 - C** The landscaper came to redo the plantings around the house; he brought azaleas, rhododendrons, and hydrangeas.
 - D** The landscaper came to redo the plantings around the house he brought; azaleas, rhododendrons, and hydrangeas.

Part 6: Writing Prompts

Prompt 2: Writing to Persuade

The purpose of writing a persuasive piece is to attempt to get the readers to agree with your point of view. Most authors do this by offering reasons why they feel a certain way. Imagine that you are trying to convince other students to reduce the amount of waste they create at school and help the environment. This can be done by using both sides of paper, recycling plastic bottles and aluminum cans, or bringing your lunch to school in a reusable bag.

In your response, be sure to:

- describe the ways that students can reduce the amount of waste they create at school.
- explain how these actions can help the environment.
- describe how these actions can help the students in your class.

Check your writing for correct spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]