



# Kansas Assessment Prep Grade 3 Reading Comprehension

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# To the Students

## 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. The following are some tips to help you correctly answer multiple-choice questions on the Grade 3 Kansas Reading Assessment:

- 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 of the test.

## Tips for Answering Open-Response Questions

In this book, students will also be asked to answer open-response questions once they have finished reading some of the passages. Open-response items allow the students to practice their writing skills by answering questions about a passage in their own words.

Remember to:

- Read the question carefully. Be sure you understand it before you begin writing.
- Be sure your essay has a main idea. This should be in your introduction.
- Support your main idea 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.
- Check your spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.
- Write neatly.

# **“MY SHADOW”**

*by Robert Louis Stevenson*

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,  
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.  
He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head;  
And I can see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.

The funniest thing about him is the way he likes to grow—  
Not at all like proper children, which is always very slow;  
For he sometimes shoots up taller like an India-rubber ball,  
And he sometimes gets so little that there’s none of him at all.

He hasn’t got a notion of how children ought to play,  
And can only make a fool of me in every sort of way.  
He stays so close beside me, he’s a coward you can see;  
I’d think shame to stick to nursie as that shadow sticks to me!

One morning, very early, before the sun was up,  
I rose and found the shining dew on every buttercup;  
But my lazy little shadow, like an arrant<sup>1</sup> sleepy head,  
Had stayed at home behind me and was fast asleep in bed.

<sup>1</sup> *arrant*: complete

1. What does the speaker’s shadow do when he jumps into bed?
  - A. gets taller
  - B. gets little
  - C. jumps before him
  - D. sticks to him

You can find the answer to this question right in the poem. In the beginning of the poem, the speaker says, “I can see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.” Answer choice A says that the shadow gets taller. Sometimes the shadow does get taller, but not when the speaker jumps into bed. The shadow also gets smaller at times, but again, it doesn’t do this when the speaker jumps into bed, so answer choice B is not the correct answer. Answer choice C is correct. Answer choice D says that the shadow sticks to the speaker. It does do this, but not when the speaker jumps into bed.

2. What does the shadow do when the speaker gets up before the sun?

- A. shoots up taller
- B. stays in bed
- C. jumps up high
- D. stays nearby

This question also asks about a detail in the poem. You can find this answer right in the poem. When the speaker gets up before the sun, his shadow stays in bed. Answer choice B is the correct answer. You might find some of the other answer choices in the poem, but they do not describe what the shadow does when the speaker gets up before the sun.

3. Read the line below from the poem.

He hasn't got a notion of how children ought to play.

In the sentence, the word notion probably means

- A. need.
- B. turn.
- C. sight.
- D. clue.

This question asks about a word that might be new to you. You have to reread a line from the poem very carefully to figure out this answer. If you put the word need in answer choice A in place of the word notion, it doesn't make any sense. This is not the correct answer. The word turn in answer choice B and the word sight in answer choice C do not make any sense either. The word clue, in answer choice D, is a good answer. The speaker's shadow doesn't have a clue as to how children play. This is the best answer choice D.

4. Why does the speaker think his shadow is a coward?

- A. His shadow hides at night.
- B. His shadow stays close to him.
- C. His shadow likes to sleep.
- D. His shadow stays with nursie.

An easy way to find the answer to this question is to look for the word “coward” in the poem. When you find this word, you will find the answer to this question. Line 11 of the poem reads, “He stays so close beside me, he’s a coward you can see.” The speaker calls the shadow a coward because it stays so close beside him (answer choice B). The speaker doesn’t call the shadow a coward because it hides at night (answer choice A), because it likes to sleep (answer choice C), or because it stays with nursie (answer choice D). The best answer is answer choice B.

5. The poem is MAINLY about

- A. a boy who likes to tell funny stories.
- B. a boy who teaches his shadow a lesson.
- C. a boy who tells about his shadow.
- D. a boy who gets up before the sun.

This question asks you to tell the main idea of the poem or what the poem is mainly about. The boy does not tell funny stories (answer choice A). Though he talks about his shadow, he does not teach his shadow a lesson (answer choice B). He does tell about his shadow, so answer choice C is a good choice. While he does get up before the sun (answer choice D), this is not what the whole poem is about. Answer choice C is the best answer. It might also be helpful to look at the title of the poem.

6. Which word BEST describes the speaker's shadow?

- A. playful
- B. angry
- C. hopeful
- D. tricky

This question asks you to choose a word that best describes the speaker's shadow. Reread the poem. The speaker does say that his shadow likes to play, so answer choice A might be a good answer. The speaker does not say that his shadow is angry (answer choice B), so this is not the correct answer. The speaker's shadow does not seem to be especially hopeful, so answer choice C is not the right answer. The speaker's shadow also is not tricky (answer choice D). Answer choice A is the best answer.

# THE CANOE

Long before there were motorboats and sailboats, long before there were battleships, cruise ships, rowboats and pirate boats, there was the canoe.

The canoe was the way that our ancestors first traveled on the water. Some of these first canoes were carved out of trees. Others were made from birch bark or animal skins stretched over a wooden frame. Whatever they were made of, canoes were the perfect way to travel over water because they were so light. If necessary, canoes could easily be taken out of the water and carried on land without much effort.



In the late 1800s, canoeing became an activity that people started doing for fun. Over time, the canoe was improved. Today, many people spend their vacations peacefully paddling up and down lakes and rivers throughout the country. What a long way the canoe has come!

1. Read the sentence below from the passage.

Today, many people spend their vacations peacefully paddling up and down lakes and rivers throughout the country.

In the sentence, the word peacefully probably means

- A. most peaceful.
  - B. not peaceful.
  - C. in a peaceful way.
  - D. one who is peaceful.
2. According to the passage, a canoe would PROBABLY need to be picked up and carried on land to
    - A. show how light it is.
    - B. get it around a waterfall.
    - C. test how strong it is.
    - D. see if it was made from bark.
  3. What is the MAIN topic of the passage?
    - A. A canoe is a very useful kind of boat.
    - B. There are many different kinds of boats.
    - C. A canoe can be made from birch bark.
    - D. Many people enjoy canoeing for fun.
  4. According to the passage, what made canoes perfect for traveling?
    - A. They were made of wood.
    - B. They were very light.
    - C. They were very long.
    - D. They were easy to paddle.

# THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA

*by Hans Christian Andersen (1805–1875)*

Once upon a time there was a prince who wanted to marry a princess; but she would have to be a real princess. He travelled all over the world to find one, but nowhere could he get what he wanted. There were princesses enough, but it was difficult to find out whether they were real ones. There was always something about them that was not as it should be. So he came home again and was sad, for he would have liked very much to have a real princess.

One evening a terrible storm came on; there was thunder and lightning, and the rain poured down in torrents. Suddenly a knocking was heard at the city gate, and the old king went to open it.

It was a princess standing out there in front of the gate. But, good gracious! what a sight the rain and the wind had made her look. The water ran down from her hair and clothes; it ran down into the toes of her shoes and out again at the heels. And yet she said that she was a real princess.

“Well, we’ll soon find that out,” thought the old queen. But she said nothing, went into the bed-room, took all the bedding off the bedstead, and laid a pea on the bottom; then she took twenty mattresses and laid them on the pea, and then twenty eider-down beds on top of the mattresses.

On this the princess had to lie all night. In the morning she was asked how she had slept.

“Oh, very badly!” said she. “I have scarcely closed my eyes all night. Heaven only knows what was in the bed, but I was lying on something hard, so that I am black and blue all over my body. It’s horrible!”

Now they knew that she was a real princess because she had felt the pea right through the twenty mattresses and the twenty eider-down beds.

Nobody but a real princess could be as sensitive as that.

So the prince took her for his wife, for now he knew that he had a real princess; and the pea was put in the museum, where it may still be seen, if no one has stolen it.

There, that is a true story.

1. Which word BEST describes the Prince at the beginning of the story?
  - A. happy
  - B. angry
  - C. upset
  - D. afraid
2. According to the story, what caused the queen to think that the girl wasn't a real princess?
  - A. She had no crown.
  - B. She was very old.
  - C. She wasn't nice.
  - D. She was very wet.
3. Read the sentence below from the story.

One evening a terrible storm came on; there was thunder and lightning, and the rain poured down in torrents.

In the sentence, the word terrible probably means

- A. pleasant.
- B. happy.
- C. awful.
- D. nice.

4. What kind of person do you think the queen is? Use details of how the queen acts from the selection.