



Grade 3

FAST ELA Reading

Sample Test Materials

The purpose of these sample test materials is to orient teachers and students to the types of paper-based FAST ELA Reading questions. By using these materials, students will become familiar with the types of items and response formats they may see on a paper-based test. The sample items and answers are not intended to demonstrate the length of the actual test, nor should student responses be used as an indicator of student performance on the actual test. The sample test materials are not intended to guide classroom instruction.

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Read the passages “The Wild Side of Pet Cats” and “Dewey the Library Cat: A True Story” and then answer Numbers 1 through 7.

Passage 1: The Wild Side of Pet Cats

by Jo Waters

Was Your Pet Once Wild?

- 1 Did you know that your pet cat is closely related to wild animals? Finding out more about your pet cat’s wild **ancestors** will help you give it a better life. . . .

Popular Pets

- 2 Cats can be kept in almost any home and they can be great companions. Although cats do not need walking, like dogs, they do need plenty of space to exercise. They also need regular care and special food.
- 3 Cats are very popular pets. In the United States, more people keep cats than dogs. . . .

Cat Habitats

- 4 Wild cats make their homes in different places. Most cheetahs live on the open plains, where they can run and hunt prey. Panthers and tigers live in jungles and forests. They are very good at climbing trees.
- 5 Smaller cats like cougars can live in mountains, swamps, pine forests, and even deserts.

Pet Habitats

- 6 A pet cat’s habitat is its owner’s home. Your cat still has the **instinct** to go out and hunt. Traffic and other animals can make this dangerous. Make sure your cat has a safe place to play in your house or yard.
- 7 All cats need somewhere to sleep or hide. A pet cat may have a bed somewhere in the house. You can buy special cat beds, but many cats choose their own sleeping place. This could be a warm shelf or a corner of a sofa. . . .

Sleeping

- 8 Most cats sleep a lot. Lions can sleep for more than twenty hours every day. After they have . . . eaten, they can sleep for a whole day without doing anything else.
- 9 Many wild cats, like jaguars, hunt at night or around dawn and dusk.

Sleeping Places

- 10 Wild cats sleep wherever they feel safe. Lions sleep in groups usually under the shelter of a tree or rock. Snow leopards spend most of the day resting on high rocks.
- 11 It is important for kittens to get lots of sleep because they grow while they are asleep.
- 12 Cats often take “cat naps.” These are short sleeps during the day. A cat needs to have naps to stay healthy and happy.
- 13 Pet cats sleep for about sixteen hours a day. If your cat lives for thirteen years, it will have spent over eight years asleep!

Glossary

ancestors: animals in the cat family that lived many years ago

instinct: the way animals or humans naturally act, without thinking about it

Excerpt from *The Wild Side of Pet Cats* by Jo Waters. Copyright © 2004 by Raintree. Reprinted by permission of Coughlan Companies LLC dba Capstone via Copyright Clearance Center.

Passage 2: Dewey the Library Cat: A True Story

by Vicki Myron

Dewey is a cat that was found in the book return of the Spencer Public Library in Iowa. The people in the library decided to make him a library cat. It did not take long for Dewey to get used to life in the library.

- 14 At two minutes to nine, Dewey would drop whatever he was doing and race for the front door.
- 15 A **patron** was always waiting outside at exactly nine o'clock when we opened the doors, and she would usually enter with a warm, "Hi, Dewey. How are you this morning?"
- 16 *Welcome, welcome*, I imagined him saying from his post to the left of the door. *Why don't you pet the cat?*
- 17 No response. The early birds were usually there for a reason, which meant they didn't have time to stop for a cat.
- 18 *No petting? Fine. There's always another person where you came from—wherever that is.*
- 19 It wouldn't take long for him to find a lap, and since he'd been up for two hours that usually meant it was time for a nap. Dewey was already so comfortable in the library he had no problem falling asleep in public places. He could fall asleep anywhere. . . .
- 20 In those days, Iowa provided envelopes with its tax forms, and we always put a box of them out for patrons. Dewey must have spent half his first winter curled up in that box.
- 21 "I need an envelope," a patron would say nervously, "but I don't want to disturb Dewey. What should I do?"
- 22 "Don't worry. He's asleep."
- 23 "But won't it wake him up? He's lying on top of them."
- 24 "Oh, no, the Dew's dead to the world."
- 25 The patron would gently roll Dewey to the side and then, far more carefully than necessary, slide out an envelope. He could have jerked it like a magician pulling a tablecloth from under a dinner setting, it wouldn't have mattered. Dewey was an expert when it came to napping.
- 26 "Cat hair comes with the envelope," I'd say. "No charge."

Glossary

patron: a person who uses a particular place regularly

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FAST ELA Reading Sample Items

Now answer Numbers 1 through 7. Base your answers on the passages “The Wild Side of Pet Cats” and “Dewey the Library Cat: A True Story.”

1. What is the purpose of the **Cat Habitats** and **Pet Habitats** sections in Passage 1?
- Ⓐ to tell the history of different types of animals
 - Ⓑ to describe problems that cats face and give solutions
 - Ⓒ to explain why certain animals travel together in large groups
 - Ⓓ to compare and contrast different types of living spaces for cats

2. In Passage 1, how does the author develop the central idea that people can learn about pet cats by watching wild cats?
- Ⓐ by showing the food that pet cats and wild cats hunt
 - Ⓑ by giving examples of how wild cats and pet cats act alike
 - Ⓒ by describing how wild cats are more dangerous than pet cats
 - Ⓓ by explaining why pet cats are as interesting to study as wild cats

FAST ELA Reading Sample Items

3. Select **two** sentences from Passage 2 that support the author's claim that Dewey had no problem finding a place to rest.

- Ⓐ "Welcome, welcome, I imagined him saying from his post to the left of the door." (paragraph 16)
- Ⓑ "It wouldn't take long for him to find a lap, and since he'd been up for two hours that usually meant it was time for a nap." (paragraph 19)
- Ⓒ "Dewey must have spent half his first winter curled up in that box." (paragraph 20)
- Ⓓ "What should I do?" (paragraph 21)
- Ⓔ "Cat hair comes with the envelope, I'd say." (paragraph 26)

4. In Passage 2, how does the author develop her purpose of explaining what is special about a library in Iowa?
- Ⓐ by describing how a cat protects the library
 - Ⓑ by describing each room a cat sleeps in at the library
 - Ⓒ by describing the reason people come to visit a cat at the library
 - Ⓓ by describing how a cat behaves around the people who visit the library

FAST ELA Reading Sample Items

5. Read the paragraph from Passage 2.

21 “I need an envelope,” a patron would say nervously, “but I don’t want to disturb Dewey. What should I do?”

What does the word nervously mean as it is used in paragraph 21?

- Ⓐ in anger
- Ⓑ with joy
- Ⓒ in silence
- Ⓓ with worry

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6. How do the authors of both passages show that cats can make good pets?
- Ⓐ by explaining why cats like to move around
 - Ⓑ by explaining that cats are more comfortable indoors
 - Ⓒ by giving examples where cats are friendly toward humans
 - Ⓓ by describing examples of how cats can find food on their own

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7. Fill in the bubbles to show whether the information is found in Passage 1, Passage 2, or both passages.

	Passage 1	Passage 2	Both Passages
Cats are grouped into different types.	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C
Sleep is an important part of life for cats.	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F
Cats can be excited to spend time with people.	<input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> H	<input type="radio"/> I

Read the passage “Annika’s Fireworks” and then answer Numbers 8 through 13.

Annika’s Fireworks

by Lisa Rosinsky

- 1 An orange firework burst overhead. “Where do the sparkles go after they fall out of the sky?” Annika asked her family. “Do you know?”
- 2 Her little brother, Ben, gurgled and waved his tiny fist. “Great question,” her mom said as she offered Annika a slice of watermelon. Her dad said, “Hmm,” and adjusted his camera’s lens.
- 3 Annika flopped down on the blanket her mom had spread on the grass. A white-and-gold firework blossomed high above the trees, and they heard a *pop-pop-bang!* echo down by the lake. Annika tipped her head all the way back. She watched the sparkles drip like glittering spray from a fountain before they disappeared into the dark. Kids were running between blankets all over the hilltop, kicking soccer balls, waving streamers.
- 4 This was her favorite day of the whole summer.
- 5 *Do the sparkles turn into stars? Annika wondered. Do they land in the treetops? Do they puddle up at the bottom of the lake in a mound of glitter?*
- 6 Two red fireworks shot across the sky like comets and burst into bright white lights that blinked on and off. Ben screamed happily and threw one of his shoes across the blanket. Her mom laughed and put it back on his foot. Her dad said, “Wow, look at that one!” and took a photo.
- 7 “Can I go look for sparkles?” asked Annika.
- 8 “When the show is over, honey,” her mom said.
- 9 Annika wiggled her fingers like fireworks at Ben and said, “*Ka-boom!*”
- 10 After the show was done, all the families clapped. They talked about what a great fireworks show it was and wished each other a happy Fourth of July. Annika sighed. Her favorite day of the whole summer was almost over. Everyone started packing up to go.
- 11 Annika gathered the watermelon rinds and helped her mom fold the blanket. Annika’s dad put away his camera and picked up Ben. Then

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Annika tugged her mother's sleeve. "May I go look for sparkles, please? Just for two minutes?"

12 "OK," Annika's mom said. "But stay where we can see you."

13 Annika ran to the edge of the field and looked around.

14 There were no orange sparkles in the grass. There were no red sparkles in the trees.

15 But hanging in the air, where the field met the trees, were dozens and dozens of sparkles like the white-and-gold fireworks. They were blinking on and off. Annika reached out to touch one. It landed on her hand.

16 A firefly! It had tiny wings and little legs that tickled as it crawled across her palm. It flashed once, twice, and then zoomed off into the trees.

17 Annika smiled. Maybe the fireworks were over, but she knew where to find sparkles for the rest of the summer.

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Now answer Numbers 8 through 13. Base your answers on the passage “Annika’s Fireworks.”

8. Read this sentence from the passage.

“An orange firework burst overhead.” (paragraph 1)

What is the meaning of the word overhead as it is used in the passage?

- Ⓐ above
- Ⓑ loudly
- Ⓒ quickly
- Ⓓ through

FAST ELA Reading Sample Items

9. This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

Read this phrase from the passage.

“Two red fireworks shot across the sky like comets . . . ” (paragraph 6)

Which type of figurative language is used in this phrase?

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

Part B

Why does the author use the type of figurative language in Part A?

- Ⓐ to show an event with fireworks
- Ⓑ to show how the fireworks move
- Ⓒ to show the way fireworks are made
- Ⓓ to show how far away the fireworks are

10. This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

How does Annika change in the passage?

- Ⓐ Annika is scared at the beginning but happy at the end.
- Ⓑ Annika is proud at the beginning and thankful at the end.
- Ⓒ Annika is excited at the beginning but nervous at the end.
- Ⓓ Annika is curious at the beginning and surprised at the end.

Part B

Select the sentence that shows why Annika's feelings change.

- Ⓐ At first she tries to ignore her brother, but then she teaches him about fireworks.
- Ⓑ At first she wishes to do something else, but then she sees the beautiful fireworks.
- Ⓒ At first she wants to learn more about fireworks, but then she finds blinking fireflies.
- Ⓓ At first she wants to be on her own, but then she watches the fireworks with her parents.

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11. How does the passage develop the theme that searching can lead to new discoveries?

- Ⓐ Annika picks up the camera so she can learn how to take pictures.
- Ⓑ Annika loves the fireworks and wants to see them again next year.
- Ⓒ Annika looks for the sparkles so she can answer her own questions.
- Ⓓ Annika plays with her brother and wants to teach him about fireworks.

12. How is Annika’s perspective different from her mother’s?

- Ⓐ Annika thinks about people, while her mother thinks about food.
- Ⓑ Annika thinks about playing, but her mother thinks about the fireworks.
- Ⓒ Annika thinks about the fireworks, while her mother thinks about family.
- Ⓓ Annika thinks about the woods, but her mother thinks about taking pictures.

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13. Which **two** sentences should be included in a summary of the passage?

- Ⓐ Annika goes to see the fireworks every year.
- Ⓑ Annika eats food given to her by her mother.
- Ⓒ Annika finds fireflies while looking for sparkles.
- Ⓓ Annika watches her dad take photos of fireworks.
- Ⓔ Annika and her family are watching fireworks together.



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