Success in Literacy Reading Tests

UNDERSTANDING YEAR 4 COMPREHENSION

Excellent for all Students, Teachers, Coaches and Parents

SAMPLE

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CONTENTS

Page

INTRODUCTION

- Acknowledgments iii
- Availability of books by the same editor & publisher iv
- Understanding Year 4 English Testing vi
- How to use this book effectively vii
- Test sources viii
- A brief summary of some question formats ix
- A practice test x

Year 4 Comprehension Passages and Exercises

These tests include narratives, poems, procedures, recounts, explanations, descriptions, cartoons and reports. At the end of each test there is also a valuable and well explained literacy tip. 1

ANSWERS – Reading Comprehension Tests 84, 85

ANSWERS – Literacy Tip Exercises 86, 87

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"So it is with children who learn to read fluently and well. They begin to take flight into whole new worlds as effortlessly as young birds take to the sky."

William James

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF SOME QUESTION FORMATS

Look at the nursery rhyme, Jack and Jill, as the text for a set of questions.

1 Jack and Jill went up the hill
To fetch a pail of water.
Jack fell down and broke his crown
And Jill came tumbling after.

2 Up Jack got and home he trot
As fast as he could caper,
And went to bed to __(4)__ his head
With vinegar and brown paper.

Many tests are based on multiple-choice responses. You are given a choice of four (sometimes three) possible answers (options) to choose from.
Some will take the form of a question: You may have to circle a letter or shade a box.

1. Why did Jack go up the hill?

A to meet Jill
B to get a pail of water
C to have a sleep
D to collect paper

The question could have been framed so that you have to complete a sentence.

2. Jack went up the hill to

A meet Jill B get a pail of water
C have a sleep D collect paper

Some questions may have to do with word or phrase meanings.

3. Choose the word that could best replace *fetch* as used in the text.

A fill B find C get D empty

(Did you notice the different lay-out of the options? They were across the page.)

4. Which word would best go in the space labelled (4) in stanza 2?

A mend B wash C find D scratch

Sometimes you might have to work out the sequence in which events occured.

5. Write the numbers 1 to 4 in the boxes to show the correct order in which events occured in the rhyme. The first one has been done for you.

1	Jack went up the hill.
	Jack went to bed.
	Jill fell down the hill.
	Jack hurried home.

Some questions are called free response questions. You will have to write an answer.

6. How many people went up the hill? Write your answer on the line? _____

Sometimes you might have to decide if something is TRUE or FALSE.

7. Tick the box to show if this statement is TRUE or FALSE.

Jack went up the hill to get brown paper. TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

There will be times when you will have to read the whole text and make a judgment.

8. You know that Jack was seriously injured because he

A rushed home B had cracked his skull
C didn't wait for Jill D left his pail of water behind

9. Sometimes you might have to decide if, according to the text, a statement is FACT or OPINION.

Answers: 1. B, 2. B, 3. C, 4. A, 5. (1, 4, 2, 3), 6. 2, 7. FALSE, 8. B

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Year 4 Comprehension Passages and Exercises

Each of the 40 passages has a set of eight comprehension and language questions, based upon that text. Following the questions is a section called **Lit Tip** (short for Literacy Tips). These are gems of information that are intended to develop the child's responses to Language Conventions questions arising in texts and tests. They may also be beneficial when answering questions in Language Convention (Grammar) papers or when completing Writing assessment tasks.

Number	Text type	Title	Lit Tip	Page
1	Narrative	The Carousel	Direct/indirect speech	2–3
2	Poetry	Animals' Houses	Rhyme	4–5
3	Persuasion	Why Drink Green Tea?	How to use dashes	6–7
4	Procedure	How to Eat Ice Cream	Synonyms, Antonyms	8–9
5	Recount	Postcard from Fiji	Compound words	10–11
6	Explanation	Battery Drain	Using initials	12–13
7	Description	Gillang Bay	Similes	14–15
8	Report	Insects	Full stops with titles	16–17
9	Narrative	Library Rules	The prefix *dis*	18–19
10	Procedure	Sheep, Sheep Come Home	Contractions (apostrophes)	20–21
11	Cartoons	Comics and Cartoons	Apostrophes – singular	22–23
12	Poetry	Mr Tom Narrow	Stanza, verse or chorus	24–25
13	Explanation	What are Adverbs?	Tense	26–27
14	Procedure	Sending Parcels	Regular verbs	28–29
15	Persuasion	Reading a Real Book!	Irregular verbs	30–31
16	Narrative	Lost Time	Proper nouns	32–33
17	Explanation	Sand Castles and Sculptures	Using question marks	34–35
18	Song Lyrics	Teddy Bears' Picnic	Person (1st, 2nd, 3rd)	36–37
19	Recount	Bermuda Triangle	Narrator or anthor?	38–39
20	Report	Where's Wally? Milestone	Deity capitals	40–41
21	Poetry	Madeleine Says	Redundant words	42–43
22	Folk tale	Nasrudin's Choice	Affix, prefix, suffix	44–45
23	Report	Energy In - Energy Out	Interjections	46–47
24	Narrative	Meet Bruiser	Alliteration	48–49
25	Play Script	Summer Adventure	Comparative adjectives	50–51
26	Interview	Letter to the Editor	Rhetorical questions	52–53
27	Explanation	Headphones	Proper adjectives	54–55
28	Report	Parts of a Knife	Puns	56–57
29	Persuasion	Norseman Home Page	un - im for antonyms	58–59
30	Poetry	Be Glad Your Nose is on Your Face	Repetition	60–61
31	Recount	The Mary Celeste Mystery	Homonyms	62–63
32	Narrative	Strange Meeting	Acronyms or initials	64–65
33	Explanation	How do Fog Lights Work	Punctuation in speech	66–67
34	Description	Gillang Bay at Night	Idiom	68–69
35	Procedure	How to Make a Potato Print	Better words than 'said'	70–71
36	Persuasion	Advertisement Flier Puppy School	Dual ownership	72–73
37	Recount	Sir Donald Bradman	Writing the date	74–75
38	Poetry	First Day at School	Using commas	76–77
39	Report	Doodle Bug	Ellipsis	78–79
40	Narrative	Black Beauty	Better story endings	80–81

SAMPLE

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1 Read the narrative ***The Carousel***.

The Carousel



The old man shut the gate with a clang, then roared to his assistant, “Let her go!”

With a creak and a groan of old gears the carousel began to move and then the organ music began.

Olivia patted her horse’s mane. As the horse began to move up and down she settled herself more comfortably into the saddle. The ride was taking her around to the other side, away from the food stalls and amusement tents.

It was then she heard the crash. Metal garbage bins rattling into the gutter – followed by yells of anger from Perrin St. Olivia twisted in her saddle but all she could see was the old grandstand nearby sailing past. Then it was the fence to the town oval.

“Hooligans,” muttered the old man as he worked his way through the bobbing horsesand around the revolving platform.

As the carousel continued its circuit Olivia could saw that he was right. There were garbage bins on their side in front of Mr O’Hare’s barbershop. She could also see two boys racing across the grass of the fair grounds. One was that horrible Jimmy Dean!

Mr O’Hare was in hot pursuit of the boys gaining on the slower boys.

Olivia suddenly recognised the younger boy. It was Reece, her brother! He wouldn’t have pushed over the bins. She just knew it. He was just too shy. But it looked as if he could be the one paying for it.

Keep going Olivia silently begged. Her horse was almost level with Reece and he was tiring. There was anguish in his tear-stained face.

At that moment Reece recognised Olivia.

Without thinking Olivia jumped from her horse, leant over the side of the carousel and with outstretched arms grabbed Reece and swung him up to safety.

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Understanding Narratives Circle a letter or write an answer for questions 1 to 8.

1. Who was riding on the carousel?

A Reece B Olivia
C Mr O'Hare D Jimmy Dean

2. What was the first sound Olivia heard after the old man roared, "Let her go!"

A garbage bins rolling about B organ music
C Mr O'Hare shouting D the groan of the carousel's gears

3. The text states that there was *anguish* on Reece's face. This means he was feeling

A excited B reckless
C distressed D angry

4. Olivia felt certain that Reece had not upturned the garbage bins because he was

A no where near the barber's shop B too shy to do something like that
C waiting to get on the carousel D running away from hooligans

5. Choose the word that best describes how Olivia felt when she got on her horse?

A frightened B relaxed
C unsure D confused

6. According to the text, which statement is correct?

A Jimmy Dean tried to climb on the carousel.
B The carousel assistant checked the horses as the carousel revolved.
C The carousel horses were able to move up and down.
D Olivia knew immediately what had made the old man angry.

7. What could Olivia see when she heard the garbage bins rolling on the footpath?
Write your answer on this line._____

8. What part of speech is the word *safety* as used in the text?

A noun B verb C adjective D preposition

Need to try another narrative passage? Check the contents page.

Lit Up

Lit Tip 1 – Improve your literacy skills **Direct and indirect speech**

Words spoken can be recorded as direct speech or indirect speech.

Direct speech uses the actual words spoken in inverted commas (quotation marks).
An example: "Hooligans", muttered the old man.
This could have been written: The old man muttered, "Hooligans."

Indirect speech reports the meaning of what has been said, but not the exact words.
An example: The doctor said <u>that</u> the cut on my arm was not serious.
Indirect speech often uses the word <u>that</u> to introduce the reported words.

Look at these three sentences. Tick those that are written using indirect speech.

1. Jack asked the plumber if he could fix the hose. ☐

2. "Can you fix the hose?" Jack asked the plumber. ☐

3. Mum said that it was time for bed. ☐

SAMPLE

2 Read the poem ***Animals' Houses.***

Animals' Houses

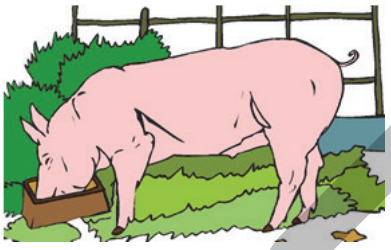
Of animals' houses
Two sorts are found-
Those which are square ones
And those which are round.

Square is a hen house,
A kennel, a sty;
Cows have square houses
And so have I.

A snail's shell is curly,
A bird's nest is round;
Rabbits have twisty burrows
Underground.

But the fish in the bowl
And the fish at sea-
Their houses are round
As a house can be.

James Reeves (1909 – 1978)











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Understanding Poetry Circle a letter or write an answer for questions 1 to 8.

1. Which animal lives in a curly house?

A rabbit B snail
C goldfish D bird

2. A sty is a house for a

A dog B hen C cow D pig

3. Where do rabbits have their homes?

A under the ground B in a nest
C near a garden D by a vegetable patch

4. What word from the poem rhymes with *sty*?

A curly B sea C I D house

5. Tick a box for TRUE or FALSE for this statement.

The poet doesn't have his own house

TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

6. According to the poem which creature has the roundest house?

A the cow B the rabbit
C the hen D the fish

7. On the line write the name of a house for a dog._____

8. How many different sorts of houses does the poet describe?

A two B three C five D nine

Need to try another poem? Check the contents page.

SAMPLE

Lit Tip

Lit Tip 2 – Improve your literacy skills Understanding rhyme

Most words that rhyme end with the same arrangement of letters.

For example: c<u>at</u>, r<u>at</u>, th<u>at</u>; r<u>each</u>, p<u>each</u>; tr<u>easure</u>, pl<u>easure</u>

Sometimes rhyming words may look different, e.g. write/flight; answer/dancer

Sometimes words that look different can rhyme, e.g. blue/grew; bough/cow

Circle the word that does ***not*** rhyme with the other words in each line.

1. dead bread said Fred bead

2. some dumb hum drum home

Circle the word that rhymes with mother.

3. father uncle brother mower rather

Circle the word that rhymes with were.

4. there fur where here share

Understanding Year 4 Comprehension
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Answers Year 4 Comprehension Questions

No. Title Answers

1. The Carousel: 1. B 2. D 3. C 4. B 5. B 6. C 7. an old grandstand 8. A
2. Animal Houses: 1. B 2. D 3. A 4. C 5. FALSE 6. D 7. D kennel 8. A
3. Green Tea: 1. B 2. D 3. A 4. D 5. B 6. C 7. black tea OR coffee 8. D
4. Ice cream: 1. C 2. C 3. D 4. A 5. B 6. A 7. dribbles 8. D
5. Fiji Postcard:1. B 2. C 3. A 4. C 5. D 6. C 7. A 8. (2, 1, 4, 3)
6. Battery Drain: 1. C 2. A 3. B 4. D 5. A 6. C 7. D 8. B
7. Gillang Bay: 1. A 2. A 3. D 4. B 5. C 6. chugged 7. B 8. false
8. Insects: 1. C 2. A 3. B 4. D 5. A 6. D 7. three (3) 8. C
9. Library Rules: 1. D 2. B 3. A 4. D 5. A 6. B 7. D 8. (1, 4, 3, 2)
10. Sheep Sheep:1. D 2. C 3. A 4. B 5. C 6. D 7. A 8. D
11. Comics and Cartoons: 1. A 2. (2) 3. C 4. B 5. D 6. C 7. B 8. B
12. Mr Tom Narrow: 1. B 2. A 3. D 4. A 5. C 6. B 7. C 8. True
13. What is an Adverb? 1. C 2. A 3. D 4. C 5. Answers vary: (e.g. loudly) 6. B 7. A 8. A
14. Sending Parcels: 1. B 2. B 3. Express 4. A 5. D 6. C 7. A 8. C
15. Read a Real Book!: 1. B 2. A 3. bookworm 4. D 5. A 6. C 7. C 8. A
16. Lost Time: 1. C 2. A 3. B 4. B 5. D 6. C 7. D 8. A
17. Sandcastles and Sand Sculptures: 1. B 2. D 3. B 4. C 5. A 6. C 7. (2, 1, 4, 3) 8. A
18. Teddy Bears' Picnic: 1. A 2. B 3. C 4. C 5. Because 6. B 7. C 8. A
19. The Bermuda Triangle: 1. D 2. A 3. B 4. C 5. D 6. (1, 4, 3, 2) 7. C 8. B
20. *Where's Wally?* hits Major Milestone: 1. A 2. C 3. B 4. D 5. B 6. C 7. Waldo 8. A

Continued on the next page...

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