



# Grade 8

## FCAT 2.0 Reading

### Sample Answers

This booklet contains the answers to the FCAT 2.0 Reading sample questions, as well as explanations for the answers. It also gives the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) benchmark assessed by each item. Although the Florida State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards in the summer of 2010, these standards have not yet been implemented. For this reason, the FCAT 2.0 tests and sample questions and answers are based on the 2007 NGSSS. The benchmarks included in this booklet provide teachers with additional information. For more detailed information, follow this link to the Florida NGSSS website: <http://www.floridastandards.org/index.aspx>, or follow this link to the current benchmark language in the *FCAT 2.0 Reading Test Item Specifications*: <http://fcad.fldoe.org/fcat2/itemspecs.asp>.

Multiple-choice items in FCAT 2.0 Reading tests are scored by awarding one point for each correct answer.

The intent of these sample test materials is to orient teachers and students to the types of questions on FCAT 2.0 tests. By using these materials, students will become familiar with the types of items and response formats they will see on the actual test. The sample questions 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. Additional information about test items can be found in the *FCAT 2.0 Test Item Specifications* at <http://fcad.fldoe.org/fcat2/itemspecs.asp>.

The sample questions for students and the sample answers for teachers will only be available online, at <http://fcad.fldoe.org/fcat2/fcatitem.asp>.

**Poem: “The Kite”**

“The Kite” property of the Florida Department of Education.

**1 The correct answer is A (The kite is rarely used).**

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.8.1.7.3 The student will determine the main idea or essential message in grade-level or higher texts through inferring, paraphrasing, summarizing, and identifying relevant details.

The correct answer is A. Based on the meaning of the phrase *spends most of the time sleeping in my garage*, the student should conclude that the kite is rarely used.

**2 The correct answer is H (currents, stream).**

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.8.1.6.8 The student will identify advanced word/phrase relationships and their meanings.

The correct answer is H. As used in the poem, only one pair of words in the available options, *currents* and *stream*, have similar meanings. Both words indicate flowing movement(s) through air.

**3 The correct answer is D (The imagination needs endless freedom).**

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.8.2.1.7 The student will locate and analyze an author's use of allusions and descriptive, idiomatic, and figurative language in a variety of literary text, identifying how word choice is used to appeal to the reader's senses and emotions, providing evidence from text to support the analysis.

The correct answer is D. The poet uses figurative language in this line from the poem, *that this springtime dance needs stretching out*, which suggests that the imagination needs endless freedom.

**4 The correct answer is I (reflective).**

Type of passage: Literary

Benchmark: LA.8.2.1.7 The student will locate and analyze an author's use of allusions and descriptive, idiomatic, and figurative language in a variety of literary text, identifying how word choice is used to appeal to the reader's senses and emotions, providing evidence from text to support the analysis.

The correct answer is I. The line *How do I know this, one might ask?* creates a reflective tone, as does descriptive language such as *to drift as far as my imagination will take me* and *But as I watch her . . . I begin to understand*.

**5 The correct answer is B (The string is released).**

Type of passage: Literary

Benchmark: LA.8.2.1.2 The student will locate and analyze elements of characterization, setting, and plot, including rising action, conflict, resolution, theme, and other literary elements as appropriate in a variety of fiction.

The correct answer is B. The poet establishes the conflict of confinement versus freedom and then resolves that conflict when the string is released and the kite is set free.

**6 The correct answer is G (Only when we are free can we be truly happy).**

Type of passage: Literary

Benchmark: LA.8.1.7.2 The student will analyze the author's purpose and/or perspective in a variety of texts and understand how they affect meaning.

The correct answer is G. The poet expresses the desire for freedom by stating *Because I too begin to stir on these glorious days / for want of open space and the freedom / to drift as far as my imagination will take me*. The poet conveys this point of view throughout the poem, especially in the poem's resolution, where the kite and the poet's imagination are set free.

**Article: “Rivers and Streams”**

“Rivers and Streams”: Copyright © 1999 by Patricia A. Fink Martin. Reprinted by permission of the publisher Franklin Watts, Scholastic Library Publishing. All rights reserved.

**7 The correct answer is B (raging).**

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.8.1.6.3 The student will use context clues to determine meanings of unfamiliar words.

The correct answer is B. The sentence from the article provides context clues to indicate the meaning of the word *turbulent*. These words are *crashing*, *power*, and *running*.

**8 The correct answer is H (It combines shallow tributaries).**

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.8.1.7.3 The student will determine the main idea or essential message in grade-level or higher texts through inferring, paraphrasing, summarizing, and identifying relevant details.

The correct answer is H. The article describes how the flow of water is classified as a first-order stream and also describes the journey water takes in order to be classified as a fourth-order stream. The reader can conclude that fourth-order streams are formed from combining shallow tributaries.

**9** The correct answer is A (their typical location).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.8.1.7.7 The student will compare and contrast elements in multiple texts (e.g., setting, characters, problems).

The correct answer is A. The article provides information that explains how intermittent streams and ephemeral streams are similar. The article states each stream is dependent upon rainfall in order to become a running stream. The speed of each stream's current and the volume of water found in each stream are dependent upon the amount of rainfall each stream receives. The article also states that *Intermittent streams flow only during the wet season*, while ephemeral streams are *found in very dry areas of the western United States*. From this, the reader can conclude that these two types of streams are not found in similar locations.

**10** The correct answer is G (emphasize that water moves through continuous stages).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.8.1.7.2 The student will analyze the author's purpose and/or perspective in a variety of texts and understand how they affect meaning.

The correct answer is G. The author's use of the words *endless journey* supports the information provided in the article on the cycle of evaporation and precipitation.

**11** The correct answer is B (the frequency of their water flow).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.8.1.7.3 The student will determine the main idea or essential message in grade-level or higher texts through inferring, paraphrasing, summarizing, and identifying relevant details.

The correct answer is B. The article states, *These streams flow in deep ravines or arroyos only during intense rainfall.*

**12** The correct answer is F (The ranking of rivers and streams is based on their tributaries).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.8.1.7.2 The student will analyze the author's purpose and/or perspective in a variety of texts and understand how they affect meaning.

The correct answer is F. Of the four options presented, only option F is correct based on the information the author presents in the article.

- 13** The correct answer is C (Water cycles through evaporation and precipitation).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.8.1.7.4 The student will identify cause-and-effect relationships in text.

The correct answer is C. Based on the information at the beginning of the article, the primary reason water continuously returns to the ocean through rivers and streams is because of *the cycle of evaporation and precipitation*. The article further explains that *water falls on land in the form of rains or snow* and then begins its journey back *to the ocean by way of mountain brooks, creeks, streams, and rivers*.

### Passage: “The Golden Touch”

“The Golden Touch” by Nathaniel Hawthorne. In the public domain. Image: Copyright © Getty Images / Jupiterimages / liquidLibrary.

- 14** The correct answer is I (He is happy about the possible fortune his wish can bring).

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.8.2.1.2 The student will locate and analyze elements of characterization, setting, and plot, including rising action, conflict, resolution, theme, and other literary elements as appropriate in a variety of fiction.

The correct answer is I. At the beginning of the passage, King Midas *started up, in a kind of joyful frenzy, and ran about the room, grasping at everything that happened to be in his way*. This description of King Midas’s actions clearly reveals his nature at this point in the passage. He is happy about the possible fortune his wish can bring.



**15** The correct answer is A (sheets of paper secured together).

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.8.1.6.9 The student will determine the correct meaning of words with multiple meanings in context.

The correct answer is A. As used in the excerpt, the correct definition of *leaves* is sheets of paper secured together to create the pages in a book. The phrases *splendidly bound and gilt-edged volume*, *running his fingers through the leaves*, and *bundle of thin golden plates* provide clues for determining the correct definition of the word *leaves* in this context.

**16** The correct answer is F (to admire his golden clothing).

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.8.2.1.2 The student will locate and analyze elements of characterization, setting, and plot, including rising action, conflict, resolution, theme, and other literary elements as appropriate in a variety of fiction.

The correct answer is F. King Midas decides to wear his spectacles to admire his golden clothing since he is *enraptured to see himself in a magnificent suit of gold cloth, which retained its flexibility and softness, although it burdened him a little with its weight*.

- 17** The correct answer is B (King Midas will remain hungry since his breakfast has actually turned to gold).

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.8.1.6.8 The student will identify advanced word/phrase relationships and their meanings.

The correct answer is B. Based on the meaning of the excerpted sentence, the student should determine that King Midas has access to the finest foods a person could want or need, but he no longer has access to its most basic purpose for a human being—nourishment; thus, he will remain hungry because all the food has turned to gold.

- 18** The correct answer is F (Both provide a message about greed).

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.8.1.7.7 The student will compare and contrast elements in multiple texts (e.g., setting, characters, problems).

The correct answer is F. Students can determine a common message of greed from information provided in the italicized introduction that states a *greedy King Midas desires gold more than anything else in the world* and from information provided in the last paragraph in which the author states, *And, truly, my dear little folks, did you ever hear of such a pitiable case in all your lives? Here was literally the richest breakfast that could be set before a king, and its very richness made it absolutely good for nothing.*

- 19** The correct answer is C (“The poorest laborer, sitting down to his crust of bread and cup of water, was far better off than King Midas, whose delicate food was really worth its weight in gold”).

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.8.1.7.3 The student will determine the main idea or essential message in grade-level or higher texts through inferring, paraphrasing, summarizing, and identifying relevant details.

The correct answer is C. The author clearly states that despite the wealth that King Midas’s wish granted him, he was actually more poor than a laborer who had nothing to eat except bread and water. This statement from the passage supports the idea that King Midas was in a more unfortunate situation after his wish was granted.

- 20** The correct answer is H (judgmental of King Midas’s behavior).

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.8.2.1.7 The student will locate and analyze an author’s use of allusions and descriptive, idiomatic, and figurative language in a variety of literary text, identifying how word choice is used to appeal to the reader’s senses and emotions, providing evidence from the text to support the analysis.

The correct answer is H. In the last paragraph, the author uses a judgmental tone by providing examples of King Midas’s behavior when he states, *And, truly, my dear little folks, did you ever hear of such a pitiable case in all your lives?* and *The poorest laborer, sitting down to his crust of bread and cup of water, was far better off than King Midas, whose delicate food was really worth its weight in gold.* In the last sentence, the author suggests that King Midas’s greed may cost him his life by asking the reader, *How many days, think you, would he survive a continuance of this rich fare?*

- 21** The correct answer is A (It is wise to be careful about your wishes).

Type of Text: Literary

Benchmark: LA.8.2.1.2 The student will locate and analyze elements of characterization, setting, and plot, including rising action, conflict, resolution, theme, and other literary elements as appropriate in a variety of fiction.

The correct answer is A. The author reveals the overall theme by providing examples of King Midas's experiences, which convey to the reader that it is wise to be careful about your wishes. For example, after King Midas's spectacles turned to gold, *It struck Midas, as rather inconvenient that, with all his wealth, he could never again be rich enough to own a pair of serviceable spectacles*, and when presented with *a breakfast fit to set before a king*, King Midas remarks that nothing can be eaten. At the end of the passage, the author states that *The poorest laborer, sitting down to his crust of bread and cup of water, was far better off than King Midas.*



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