



Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test

4th Grade Reading

Sample Test:
The Crow

Reading Book

Helpful Tips

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

This symbol is next to questions that require a short written answer. A full and complete answer to each of these questions is worth 2 points. A partial answer is worth 1 point.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

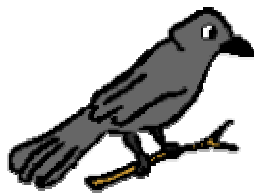
This symbol is next to questions that require a longer written answer. A full and complete answer to each of these questions is worth 4 points. A partial answer is worth 1, 2, or 3 points.

Answers to the short- and long-answer questions can receive full or partial credit. You should try to answer these questions even if you are not sure of the correct answer. If you get a portion of the answer correct, you will get a portion of the points.

- Read the question carefully.
- If you do not understand the question, go back and review the passage.
- Write your answer on the lines provided in the Answer Book.
- Remember that it is necessary to include details and information from the passage in your answer.
- Be sure to answer every part of the questions.
- Use clear, concise language to explain your answer.
- Reread the answer to make sure it says what you want it to say.

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The Crow

By Margery Bianco
(1881-1944)

Adapted for purposes of the test

Some relatives who lived in the country once had a tame crow. Like most country crows, he was called Johnny. They had brought him up from a nestling. He had never been caged nor had his wings been clipped, so he had the freedom of the whole place, just like the dogs and the cats. He preferred to spend most of his time about the house. Usually something was going on to interest him.

Johnny was never spiteful, but he was a great tease. He would make the cats' and dogs' lives a misery by tweaking their tails, shouting in their ears, and pretending to steal their food.

There was an Airedale in the family named Mike, who had been blind for many years. The farm was high on a hillside. There was very little traffic, so Mike the dog was perfectly safe. He had learned his way about so well that he could wander anywhere around the house and garden. He knew the position of each rock and tree.

Being blind, and also very good-natured and trustful, Mike fell an easy victim to Johnny's tricks. Johnny liked to hop up very quietly and give a sudden tweak to Mike's toes as he lay asleep, and then caw with delight when Mike started up and barked. The two were actually good friends. Mike was always gentle, and although Johnny teased him so much, he was really fonder of Mike than of any other animal on the farm. On chilly mornings, he would spend hours perched on Mike's back as he lay sleeping, warming his toes in the dog's long shaggy coat.

When Johnny was about two years old, the family moved to a town some distance away. Uncle Ted stayed behind for a few weeks to close up the house and take care of other tasks. One of his tasks was to build crates in which the cats and Johnny could be shipped down to their new home. The dogs had already gone on ahead.

One problem with a pet crow is that he cannot very well be left to take care of himself, however used he is to complete freedom. The wild crows will seldom accept him again as one of their own. There is always the danger that some farmer may shoot him by mistake for a wild bird. So it was thought best to bring Johnny to the new house, although he would have to spend most of his time shut up.

Johnny had never seen a cage in his life, but he seemed to know by instinct what it was. He watched as Uncle Ted built the cages, first for the cats, and then for Johnny. With the driving of each nail, Johnny seemed to grow more and more wary, and more and more suspicious. He hopped about, very curious but always just out of reach. By the time the last nail was driven home he took to the trees and refused to come down to the ground at all. There he perched, staring at the crate with his head to one side and cawing angrily at any attempt to coax him down.

He had guessed only too well who was to occupy that last crate. He was not going to be caught napping.

So in the end, there was nothing to be done but leave him there alone to keep house by himself, with a bag of corn in the barn where he could reach it easily through an open window.

When spring came again the corn was all gone, and so was Johnny. Very likely he had been clever enough to use his treasure of corn to make peace with his old friends and relatives in one grand feast, and had retired to end his days in honor and glory as a crow millionaire.



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4th Grade Reading

Sample Test:
The Crow

Answer Book

Name _____ Date _____

Teacher _____ Score ____ / 15

Read the story “The Crow.” Now answer Numbers 1 through 7. Base your answers on the story.

1 What was the author's main purpose for writing the story about the crow?.

- (A) To give enjoyment to readers.
- (B) To help readers take good care of their pets.
- (C) To inform readers about the eating habits of crows.
- (D) To persuade readers that crows are good pets.

2 Look at the sentence below.

So it was thought best to bring Johnny to the new house, although he would have to spend most of his time shut up.

Write one FACT and one OPINION from the sentence above. You may use your own words.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

3

How did Johnny show that he actually liked Mike?

- A Johnny made fun of Mike.
- B Johnny stole Mike's food.
- C Johnny slept on Mike's back.
- D Johnny guided Mike around the farm.

4

Read the sentences below.

With the driving of each nail, Johnny seemed to grow more and more wary, and more and more suspicious. He hopped about, very curious, but always just out of reach.

What does the word wary mean?

- A interested
- B sad
- C tired
- D careful

5 Think about the characters Johnny, the crow, and Mike, the dog. How are they DIFFERENT? Write your answer in paragraph form. Use details and information from the story to support your answer.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

6

Think about the character of Johnny, the crow. Where do you think he would have been happier?

**In a cage in a new house with his family
and his friend Mike**

OR

Free but without any humans to take care of him

Support your answer with details and information from the story.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

7 Reread the final paragraph of the story. In your own words, tell how the crow seems to have resolved the conflict in the story. Use details and information from the story to support your answer.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN



Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test

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Sample Test:
The Crow

Answer Key

Answer Key: The Crow

This book contains answers and explanations for The Crow Sample Test questions. Multiple-choice items are scored by awarding one point for each correct answer. Answers to short-response and extended-response “Read, Think, Explain” questions are scored with two-point and four-point rubrics respectively. For short- and extended-response questions, there is often more than one acceptable response. Partial credit is given for accurate but incomplete answers. The overall characteristics of top-score and partial-credit responses for the “Read, Think, Explain” questions are given in the general two-point and four-point rubrics below.

Sample top-score responses are provided for each “Read, Think, Explain” question.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

Rubric for Short-Response Questions

- 2 Points:** The response indicates that the student has a complete understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that is accurate, complete, and fulfills all the requirements of the task. Necessary support and/or examples are included, and the information given is clearly text-based.
- 1 Point:** The response indicates that the student has a partial understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that may include information that is essentially correct and text-based, but the information is too general or too simplistic. Some of the support and/or examples may be incomplete or omitted.
- 0 Points:** The response is inaccurate, confused, and /or irrelevant, or the student has failed to respond to the task.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

Rubric for Extended-Response Questions

- 4 Points:** The response indicates that the student has a thorough understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that is accurate, complete, and fulfills all the requirements of the task. Necessary support and/or examples are included, and the information is clearly text-based.
- 3 Points:** The response indicates that the student has an understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that is accurate and fulfills all the requirements of the task, but the required support and/or details are not complete or clearly text-based.
- 2 Points:** The response indicates that the student has a partial understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that may include information that is essentially correct and text-based, but the information is too general or too simplistic. Some of the support and/or examples and requirements of the task may be incomplete or omitted.
- 1 Point:** The response indicates that the student has very limited understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The response is incomplete, may exhibit many flaws, and may not address all requirements of the task.
- 0 Points:** The response is inaccurate, confused, and/or irrelevant, or the student has failed to respond to the task.

1. A

2. Example of a top-score response:

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

A fact from the sentence is that Johnny would have to spend most of the time shut up. An opinion from the sentence would be that "it was best to bring Johnny to the new house."

3. C

4. D

5. Example of a top-score response:

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

Mike the dog was very gentle, trustful and dependent on the family because of his blindness. Johnny the crow liked to tease and was very mischievous. He was also very independent.

6. Example of a top-score response:

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

Johnny would be happier left behind and free because he would not be happy in a cage. He belongs with other animals of his own species.

OR

Johnny would be better off in a cage living with his family. He would have plenty of food and water, and Mike could keep him company.

7. Example of a top-score response:

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

Johnny seems to have resolved his conflict in the story. He may have done this by sharing the corn with the other crows. It was left in the barn where he could easily reach it, and was gone when spring came again. This probably made him popular with the other crows, and allowed him to rejoin them.