

# Test Yourself!

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WR News Edition 4–6 is pleased to bring you the spring Literacy Skills Assessment for the 2011–2012 school year. The assessment is a convenient tool for measuring students' strengths and weaknesses in selected comprehension skills. It also provides practice in test-taking formats.

## About the Assessment

This assessment has been designed to test students' reading comprehension. The questions with each reading passage correlate with the following Concepts of Comprehension®:

1. Main Idea
2. Vocabulary in Context
3. Explicit Information
4. Drawing Conclusions
5. Text Features (passage 1);

Compare or Contrast (passages 2, 3)

**Write About It:** open-ended writing response

## Administering the Assessment

- **Create a relaxed environment for students.** Tell students that the purpose of the test is to help you learn what they can do well and where they might need help. Make sure each student has paper for the open-ended writing response prompts.
- **Read the directions aloud.** Ask whether students have any questions before starting.
- **Have students complete each section independently.** The test is not timed. Be sure to give students all the time they need to finish the assessment.

## How to Use the Results

Please keep in mind that although this assessment can indicate strengths and weaknesses, it is best used in combination with other types of ongoing assessments. The results of this assessment can be used to form small groups for instruction and to plan activities to address any weaknesses.

## Record Results

We have included a Tracking Guide to help you record students' strengths and weaknesses.

Student Name	Main Idea	Vocabulary in Context	Explicit Information	Drawing Conclusions	Text Features	Compare or Contrast	Notes

## ANSWER KEY

### Page 2: Reading Comprehension 1

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. D
5. B

**Write About It:** Answers will vary.

### Page 3: Reading Comprehension 2

1. B
2. A
3. C
4. D
5. C

**Write About It:** Answers will vary.

### Page 4: Reading Comprehension 3

1. C
2. D
3. B
4. A
5. B

**Write About It:** Answers will vary.

## A TIP FOR YOUR STUDENTS

If you're having trouble, first cross out answers that are clearly wrong. Then carefully reread the remaining answers to decide which is best.



*I'm going to call the police on you.* Jennifer stared at the text message on her cell phone. She knew she needed an adult's help. The fourth grader was getting threats from an **anonymous** cyberbully.

A cyberbully uses the Internet or a cell phone to threaten or tease someone. Cyberbullying is on the rise. According to a recent survey of 1,500 students, one in every four kids in grades 4 to 8 had been cyberbullied more than once.

Unlike bullies on the playground, online bullies can attack anytime, almost anywhere. They may send mean text messages or e-mails. Some bullies post hurtful comments on social networking Web sites. Others pose as their victims. Then they send fake messages to get them into trouble.

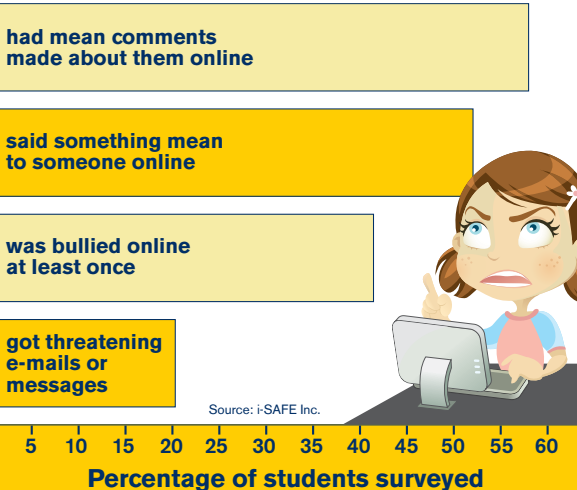
Cyberbully experts say the teasing can hurt kids' self-esteem. Some students' grades drop. Kids may also lose sleep.

Some companies are making products to protect kids. One product takes screen shots of the bullying. Cell phone companies also let users block messages and calls from certain numbers.

Victims should tell adults they trust, say experts. After Jennifer told her parents, the bully was found. He apologized. He said he didn't realize his prank had upset her.

## Cyberbullying by the Numbers

This graph shows the types of cyberbullying that students in grades 4 to 8 report.



Read the passage on the left. Then fill in the circle for the best answer.

1. What is the main idea of the story?

- (A) A cyberbully sent Jennifer threatening text messages.
- (B) Cyberbullying is a growing problem.
- (C) Some kids don't realize that they are cyberbullies.
- (D) Cyberbullies may pose as their victims to get them in trouble.

2. In the story, what does *anonymous* mean?

- (A) angry
- (B) identified
- (C) unknown
- (D) uncommon

3. How many kids in grades 4 to 8 had been cyberbullied more than once?

- (A) one in four
- (B) one in eight
- (C) one in 100
- (D) one in 1,500

4. From this story, you can reasonably conclude that \_\_\_\_.

- (A) being cyberbullied doesn't bother most kids
- (B) there are no more playground bullies
- (C) Jennifer was never bullied again
- (D) many kids have access to computers and cell phones

5. According to the graph, how many kids said something mean to someone online?

- (A) 59 percent
- (B) 53 percent
- (C) 32 percent
- (D) 20 percent

**WRITE ABOUT IT**

Brainstorm three

ways that kids can protect themselves from cyberbullies. Then create a poster that illustrates your ideas.

The babies at a hospital in Malaysia wear giant diapers and have wild red hair. They even flip out of their cribs. How? They're orangutans!

The great apes are cared for at a special hospital in the Asian nation. The babies need the attention. Wild orangutans are endangered. Scientists estimate that only about 62,500 of the apes are left. That's down from more than 120,000 orangutans about two decades ago.

The hospital's staff takes good care of the infants. Nurses feed them using bottles, change their diapers, and take their temperatures.

Once the animals are older, they will learn to live in the wild. They will practice climbing trees and searching for food. When they become adults, they will be released into the wild.

The great apes will need to be ready for some rumbles in the jungle. Orangutans live mostly in trees in rain forests, but many of those trees are being destroyed. Loggers cut down trees for lumber. Other parts of the forests have been cleared by farmers.

Hunters also break the law by **poaching** the great apes to sell their meat for food. Others capture baby orangutans and sell them as pets.

Despite the troubles, the hospital staff hopes the baby orangutans will one day help the wild great ape population swing back to life.

"The ultimate plan [is to] return [the] apes to the wild," says a hospital veterinarian. "It's a matter of the survival of the species."



A nurse at the hospital feeds a baby orangutan.

Read the passage on the left. Then fill in the circle for the best answer.

**1. Which is the best title for the story?**

- (A) "The Baby Orangutan Pet Trade"
- (B) "Hospital Helps Baby Orangutans Hang On"
- (C) "Orangutans' Forest Home"
- (D) "Why Malaysia's Rain Forests Are Shrinking"

**2. In this story, what does *poaching* mean?**

- (A) hunting illegally
- (B) chopping down trees
- (C) rescuing animals
- (D) selling orangutans

**3. About how many orangutans roamed Earth two decades ago?**

- (A) 57,500
- (B) 62,500
- (C) 120,000
- (D) 182,500

**4. If rain forests disappear completely, what might happen?**

- (A) Fewer orangutan hospitals will open in Malaysia.
- (B) Loggers will plant more trees.
- (C) Orangutan populations will increase in Asian nations.
- (D) Orangutans will become extinct.

**5. How do some loggers and farmers affect orangutans?**

- (A) They provide them with food.
- (B) They provide them with shelter.
- (C) They destroy their habitat.
- (D) They bring them to hospitals.

**WRITE ABOUT IT**

Imagine you are working at the hospital in Malaysia that cares for baby orangutans. Write a letter to a friend about your experience.

If you are what you eat, then the students at MacGregor Elementary School are fruits and vegetables! Kids at the school in Houston, Texas, chow down on everything from sweet potatoes to strawberries.

The students grow the foods themselves in a school garden. Then they work with chefs to turn the foods into healthy meals. The Recipe for Success Foundation runs the program. The group teaches kids about the foods they eat.

Eating right can help kids fight obesity. That is the condition of being dangerously overweight. Obesity has become a growing problem in the United States. Kids who are obese are at higher risk for health problems.

Changing how—and what—children eat can help them stay fit and healthy, particularly if their new diets include a lot of fresh foods.

Professional chefs help come up with recipes that include foods and herbs the kids have grown themselves. Then they help the students make the meals.

“It’s fun working with a real chef because you can actually learn how to cook things the right way,” said Lian McKethen. She ended up loving the lemon focaccia bread she made.

Students are also given the recipes to share with their families. Having healthier options has encouraged many families to **alter** the way they eat. Travoyie McCardell’s family has cut back on visits to fast-food restaurants. “We used to eat out 24-7,” the student says. “Now we just eat out a few times a month.”



A student picks carrots from his school’s garden.

**Read the passage on the left. Then fill in the circle for the best answer.**

**1. What is the main idea of the story?**

- (A) Obesity is a growing problem in the United States.
- (B) Some kids in a food program in Texas have cut back on fast foods.
- (C) A food program teaches kids how to grow and prepare healthy foods.
- (D) Students at MacGregor Elementary School eat a lot of fruits and vegetables.

**2. In the story, what does *alter* mean?**

- (A) simplify
- (B) stop
- (C) question
- (D) change

**3. Which statement about the food program is *not* true?**

- (A) Kids are given recipes to share with their families.
- (B) Kids only make bread.
- (C) Kids cook meals with professional chefs.
- (D) Kids grow their food in a school garden.

**4. From this story, you can reasonably conclude that the students \_\_\_\_.**

- (A) are enthusiastic about the program
- (B) are bored with the program
- (C) dislike trying new foods
- (D) have chefs make their food at home

**5. What do sweet potatoes and strawberries have in common?**

- (A) They are unhealthy foods.
- (B) Kids grow those foods in a garden at MacGregor Elementary School.
- (C) Most kids do not like those foods.
- (D) They are popular menu items at many fast-food restaurants.

**WRITE ABOUT IT**

Besides eating nutritiously, what are some other ways you can stay healthy? Write a paragraph explaining your answer.