

Missouri Assessment Program – Practice Form

Grade 3 English Language Arts

Transcripts of Listening Passages

The following two pages contain the transcripts of the listening passages in Session 3 of the grade 3 English Language Arts online practice form. The transcripts may be provided to hearing impaired students who need support to access the listening passages. The Test Examiner should read the passages aloud to the student. In circumstances where the student has no hearing, does not sign and cannot read lips, the student may read the passages directly. The passages correspond to the following questions in Session 3:

Passage 1: Questions 1–3

Passage 2: Questions 4–7

The transcripts must remain secure at all times. After testing, the transcripts must be destroyed by the STC or DTC at the building level, and electronic files must be deleted.

The “W” Rule

Marco helped Grandpa plant his garden. Marco asked, “When can we eat the tomatoes?”

Grandpa said, “Be patient. There’s the ‘W’ rule for gardening: weed, water, wait, and watch.”

Marco answered, “We pulled weeds, and we watered the plants, so how long do we wait and watch?”

Grandpa said, “Read the plant tags.”

Marco read, “Forty-nine days. Grandpa, that’s a long time.”

“It is for you,” said Grandpa, “but it is right for tomatoes.”

Marco complained, “If I were planting my own garden, I would want something that grows faster.”

Grandpa laughed. “I bought just the thing for you.” He gave Marco a box with a picture of a flower growing in a pot. Then, Grandpa opened his toolbox and set something on the workbench. “This is my carpenter’s ruler.”

Marco said, “It’s a folding ruler with hinges.”

“Exactly,” said Grandpa.

Marco picked up the ruler and unfolded and refolded it. “I can make my initial ‘M’ with it.”

“Or a ‘W,’” said Grandpa. “Follow the ‘W’ rule to grow your lily bulb in the flowerpot. Your flowerpot won’t have to be weeded, so you only have to—”

Marco interrupted. “Three simple steps. First, I need to water. Next, I need to wait. Finally, I need to watch.”

“Right,” said Grandpa, “and when it sprouts, measure it with the ruler every day. Write down the measurements so you can see how much it has grown each day.”

Marco followed the directions. He only waited a few days before seeing a green sprout. He watered his plant whenever the soil felt dry. He watched the sprout and measured it every day. Soon it was an inch tall, then two inches, then three. One day it passed the first hinge on the ruler.

“Grandpa,” he said, “the lily is growing fast and has knobs near the top.”

“Those will be flowers,” said Grandpa.

“Wow!” Marco exclaimed. “A lily grows a lot faster than tomatoes. Growing a lily is fun!”

The Story of America’s Flag

In 1777, Congress chose a flag for our new nation. It had stars and stripes. While people often think Betsy Ross thought up this design, it is uncertain who created it. Most likely, a member of Congress drew the flag’s pattern.

Our first flag had 13 stars and 13 stripes. There was one for each state. However, new states soon joined the nation. People began to add a star for every new state. They sewed the stars into circle patterns, rows, or “X” shapes. As a result, the flags did not all look alike. Also, the number of stars kept growing.

After many years, America had 50 states. Congress decided to hold a contest to find an official flag design. Thousands of people sent in their ideas. Robert Heft, a student, mailed in his flag design. He had spent hours arranging its 50 stars. Then he stitched them into a neatly spaced pattern. His flag won! It was the first official 50-star flag to fly above the nation’s Capitol.

Over the years, our flag has had different names too. Francis Scott Key called the flag a “Star-Spangled Banner” in his poem. He was writing about a huge flag that flew during a battle. Later, his poem became our national song. William Driver named his flag “Old Glory” and proudly flew it on his ship. These special flag names are now familiar favorites.

Today, our country’s flag flies in front of many homes, schools, and businesses. To fly the flag, follow these guidelines:

1. In the morning, attach the flag to its pole outside.
2. Raise the flag quickly.
3. At night, slowly lower the flag and fold it.