

CONVENTIONAL LITERACY ASSESSMENT PASSAGES FOR READING & LISTENING COMPREHENSION

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Passages to Use:

Form	Level	Title
A	Pre-Primer 1	A Green Frog
C	Pre-Primer 1	Apples
B	Pre-Primer 2	I Like Birds
D	Pre-Primer 2	Pete's Red Ball
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A	Grade 1	Spotty Swims
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C	Grade 7	The Rescue
A	Grade 8	A Scientist's Search
D	Grade 8	Our Environment



A Green Frog

A green frog sits on a rock.
It has big back legs.
It can jump up.



It can swim in the pond.
It gets wet.



Apples

I like apples.

I like red and yellow apples.

Apples can be green.



I like to eat big apples.

An apple is a fun snack.



I Like Birds

I can look for birds. I look up in a tree. I see a big bird. It is brown. I see a baby bird. It is little. It is brown too.

The big bird can fly. The baby bird can not fly. It is little. I like to see birds.



Pete's Red Ball

"I can not find my ball," said Pete. "My ball is a big ball. It is red."

"Here is a ball," Rose said. "The ball is blue. It is little. It is not red."

"I see a ball," said Pete. "It is red. It is big. It is my ball."

The Box

Ben went to see his friend Nan. He had a blue box. Nan saw the box. She said, "What is in the blue box?"

"I can not tell you," said Ben.
Nan asked, "Is it a ball?"

"No, it is not a ball," said Ben.
"Is it a car?" asked Nan.

"No, it is not a car," said Ben.
"I know, it is an apple," said Nan.

Ben looked in the box. There were two apples. One apple was green. One apple was red. He gave the red apple to Nan. Nan liked the apple. Ben was a good friend.

The Pig Farm

It was hot. Dad and Lisa went to a farm. The farm was a pig farm.

"Look at the pigs!" said Dad.

Lisa said, "I see a pig with white spots. It is white and black."

Dad said, "This one is red."

"Look Lisa," said Dad. "This one has a funny tail."

"The pigs like to play," said Lisa.

Pigs like mud. They play in it. The mud helps keep them cool on hot days.

A farm man talks to us. He says pigs cannot see well. But pigs have good noses.

Lisa said, "My nose helps me find pigs."

Spotty Swims

One day Spotty went for a walk. The sun was warm. Spotty walked to the pond. There he saw a frog. The frog was on a log. Spotty wanted to play. Spotty began to bark. The frog jumped into the water.

Then Spotty jumped into the water. But poor Spotty did not know what to do. The water was very deep. The water went way over his head. Spotty moved his legs. Soon his head came out of the water. He kept on moving. He came to the other side of the pond. That is how Spotty learned to swim.

The Moon

The moon has a face. My friend says it is a man. I asked Miss Green. She said the moon face was made by big rocks that bumped and bumped. This made big holes. At night the holes look like a face. No one lives on the moon. It is too hot or cold to live there. It is hard to walk on the moon, too. I would be too light. I would go up into the sky.

The moon seems to change from big to little and back again. I like to see it before I go to sleep.

The Strange Object

It was a breezy day in March. I was walking home thinking about my day at school. In the sky I saw a strange object. At first, I thought it was an airplane.

I climbed up a hill to get a better view. As I got closer, I saw it diving through the air in a strange way. It was brown and had wings. Maybe it was a bird.

Then the wind stopped, and the object came crashing toward me. I ran to get away. Then I heard a friendly laugh. My friend Max came to get his hawk kite.

Zoo Work

Bob works at the zoo. He takes care of all kinds of animals. The animals are brought to the zoo from all over the world. Bob gives hay to the elephants. He feeds raw meat to the lions and fresh fish to the seals. He knows just what to give every animal. Each day Bob washes the cages in the zoo. When an animal gets sick, Bob takes it to the zoo doctor. He will make it well. Bob keeps the zoo keys. When the people go home, Bob locks the gates to the zoo. Then he can go home.

The Night Noise

Fred was lying in bed trying to go to sleep. He had a big test the next day. He kept hearing a soft whistle, so he went into the kitchen and checked the tea kettle. The stove was off. Then he stood outside his parents' room to listen for snoring. Everyone was sleeping quietly. He returned to his room and noticed some wind. It wasn't the fan. It was off. He heard a dog bark outside and saw that his window was open a little. He closed it and the noise stopped. He climbed into bed and fell asleep quickly.

Big Star

The sun is important for life on earth. We need the sun for light, heat, and energy. If there was no sun, life on our planet earth would not exist. The sun is a star. It looks much larger than the stars you can see in the night sky. It seems larger because it is a lot closer to the earth than the other suns. It is actually about the same size as other stars. Stars are big balls of energy in the form of gas. Our earth will continue to get energy from the sun for billions of years.

Fire and Animals

The summer was a dry one, unusual for this area. Trees and bushes in the forest wilted and died. One afternoon a storm came to the forest. Thunder was heard and lightning was seen. Then it began to rain. A spark touched the leaves and a fire began. The fire spread quickly. The animals warned each other as they hurried to escape the flames. As the fire came closer, trees fell to the ground. Their branches were yellow, orange, and red. The smoke was so thick that the animals could hardly breathe. Many couldn't escape the danger of the flames.

The Soccer Game

There were only two minutes to go in the big soccer game between the Jets and the Bombers. The score was tied. The ball was in the Jets' area dangerously close to their goal. Rosa, a Jets midfielder, ran for the ball. She got to the ball and delivered a great kick. The ball went sailing over the midline into Bomber territory.

With a yell, Kim got the ball and dribbled toward the Bomber goal. There was no time for a mistake. The shot must be true. Kim faked right. Then Kim kicked left and scored as the game ended.

The Mystery

Everyone turned to stare as a black hooded figure whizzed by on a skateboard. It was a mystery because no one knew who the talented person was. Ken saw the skateboarder slide down the library railing and disappear into the alley. Nita followed the person from school and watched as a curb was jumped and a three hundred sixty degree turn was completed with ease. One day Ken noticed a skateboard and a black hooded jacket next to Rose's house. He also saw a library book called Skateboarding Tips in her desk at school. Ken had solved the challenging mystery.

Seaweed

Some of the oldest plants in the world can be found in the ocean. They are called algae or seaweed. Brown seaweed or kelp can be found in cold water. It contains a high amount of iodine. This seaweed is used to make jelly and make-up. Red seaweed is mostly found in the lower parts of the ocean. It has no roots, but uses hold-fasts to hold to the bottom of the ocean floor. Sometimes red seaweed is fed to cattle because of its nutritious value. Green algae lives in fresh water. One-celled forms of this seaweed can swim.

Keep Your Distance

Elwood was considered a tough guy at Anderson School. Everybody called him Sky. They didn't dare call him by his full name because that riled him. He was colossal in size. From far away Elwood looked like Mr. Wilson, a teacher, but the moment you saw Elwood's shoes and faded, torn jeans, you knew it could only be Elwood. He felt inferior because of his clothing, so he tried to make up for it by shocking people with his rude behavior and toughness. Elwood didn't have many friends, except for Bob who lived in the same old brick apartment building.

Cave Icicles

It is common to see icicles formed when water drips off house roofs during winter time in cold climates. The same process slowed down helps explain how stone icicles form in caves. Water dripping from the ceiling of a cave contains a mineral called calcite, and pieces sometimes stick to the ceiling. The water can also carry calcite to the floor. After several years, a small stone icicle slowly begins to form. They build less than an inch per year. Many do not get any longer than one foot. Colored icicles are created when the water contains iron or copper.

Looming Danger

The foreheads of the soldiers glistened with sweat as they struggled forward under the blazing sun of the tropics. This small band of soldiers sincerely felt that their leader was the salvation of their country. Their objective was to reach a distant army fort where they hoped to fire a rocket into the storeroom of the fort. This would cause the gunpowder to erupt like a tinderbox. A huge person bellowed an order from the leader as they trudged across the uninhabited land. The soldiers hoped their attack would scare enemy soldiers and impress more local people to join them.

The Rescue

One of the most beloved tales is of the princess and a knight. The princess, shackled to a rock, caught the eye of the wandering knight. He galloped over and, with a single stroke of his sword, freed her from the iron chain. Taking her hand, he led her away from the dreadful confinement of the rock. While relaxing in a sunny meadow, he comforted her with reassuring words. The princess told him that she had been seized by pirates. These pirates had brought her to this savage island as a peace offering to the terrible monsters of the sea.

A Scientist's Search

Chris, a scientist, worked hard at the lab bench. Chris had been given a very stimulating suggestion in a letter from an unknown person. The key to success was in the radium reaction that would activate the needed medicine. From that point, it was simply a matter of reducing different compounds to find the right one. Ultimately, it would be found, and then Chris would have a monopoly on the medicine that could make people immortal. Only Chris would know the correct amount in each tablet. The disappearance of death and disease would make Chris the most powerful person alive.

Our Environment

Besides using plants and animals for food, people use the hides of animals for shoes, the wood from trees to build houses, the fiber from the cotton plant to make skirts and shirts, and the wool from sheep to make suits and coats. Even the synthetic fibers that people use are made from matter found in the environment.

People and the environment are interdependent, but that is not the whole story. Modern people can do much more; they can use science and technology to change their environment. Because of their advanced brains, people can investigate and manipulate their precious environment