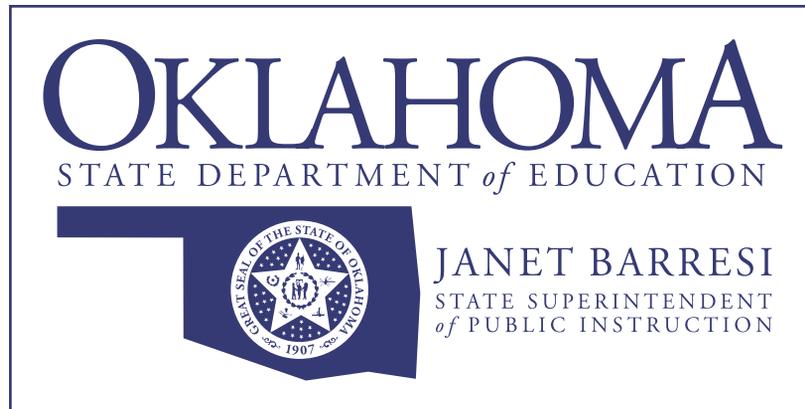


# Oklahoma School Testing Program



Oklahoma Core Curriculum Tests

## 2011–2012 Released Items

Grade 6  
Reading

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Oklahoma State Department of Education  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

## **Acknowledgments**

### **Reading**

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**PEARSON**

# Reading



## Directions

Read the selection below and the questions that follow it. Choose the best answer for each question.

100898

### Cue the Carrots, Maestro

by Christin Aitchison

- 1 Has your mom or dad ever told you to stop playing with your food? No one says that to members of the Vienna Vegetable Orchestra. They're serious about playing with their food. This group of ten musicians and one sound technician make music by playing instruments made from fresh vegetables.
- 2 This flavorful orchestra was founded in 1998. Its talented musicians are not musicians by trade. "We all have musical experience in different projects, but none of us finished a classical musical training," said Ernst Reitermaier, one of the group's members.
- 3 In fact, group members have other careers that include medicine, sound engineering, computing, and art.

### Tuning the Tomato

- 4 Members of the Vienna Vegetable Orchestra are quite inventive. They create and carve their own instruments just before each performance. Veggie instruments sound best when they're fresh! "You can't play on a rotten cucumber," one group member said.
- 5 Ernst estimates that the musicians use about sixty pounds of vegetables during each performance. The vegetables are prepared just as your mom or dad would at home, with a basic kitchen knife, though sometimes the musicians use a hand drill. But you wouldn't find these special veggie instruments on your dinner plate.
- 6 The simplest instrument is a plain tomato, which can be squashed and squeezed together to make a musical *splat!* More complicated instruments include the cucumberphone. Made from a hollowed-out cucumber with finger holes, this unique instrument has a mouthpiece carved from a carrot, and a pepper on the end.

### The Vegetable Melody

- 7 It's hard to imagine that instruments carved out of vegetables could actually make music, but they do. They make sounds that can't be easily produced by other instruments. Sometimes they sound like animals. At other times, the vegetables make abstract sounds—*squeaks, whirrs, clicks, shoops, and beeps* that sound like music of the future.



- 8 Audiences all over Europe come to hear the “Veggies” play. The orchestra tours in Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. They have two CDs (*automate* and *gemise*), and a third in the works. They’re also experimenting with a video.
- 9 According to Ernst, the group’s music is contemporary. “Our program *automate* sounds like electronic music,” he said. “Onion skins are the key.”
- 10 “We use them for that digital, glitching sound,” said Nikolaus, another group member.

### **Eat Your Veggies**

- 11 What happens to all those vegetables when the show is over? The “Veggies” employ a cook. At the end of the show, the cook makes a delicious soup that the audience and musicians enjoy together. It’s the perfect ending to an entertaining performance. Members of the orchestra develop new instruments all the time. Here are just a few of their creative veggie instruments:

<b>Vegetable</b>	<b>Instrument</b>
Carrot	Flute
Pumpkin	Bass Drum
Pepper	Bell
Leek	Violin
Radish	Marimba
Eggplant	Cymbal



1

527691\_3

**serious** (sîr' e es) *adj*, **1**: Grave or grim in manner. **2**. Extreme or severe in nature. **3**. Being dedicated or committed. **4**. Having a sincere or honest quality.

Which definition best fits the meaning of serious as it is used in paragraph 1?

- A 1
- B 2
- C 3
- D 4

2 Members of the group make their instruments

527730\_1

- A shortly before a show.
- B during the performance.
- C using special equipment.
- D the same way each time.

3 Which question is answered in paragraph 5?

527786\_3

- A Which vegetables work best for making instruments?
- B How often do the musicians make new instruments?
- C How do the musicians make their instruments?
- D Where do the musicians get the vegetables?



**4** One of the simplest instruments used by the members is

527729\_2

- A a cucumber.
- B a tomato.
- C a pepper.
- D a carrot.

**5** In paragraph 11, the word audience, along with words like audio and auditorium, come from the Latin word audire, which means

527697\_4

- A to gather.
- B to study.
- C to enjoy.
- D to hear.

**6** What is the main idea of this passage?

527833\_2

- A Music produced by a popular group has an electronic sound.
- B A group of musicians makes unusual music using vegetables.
- C A musical group finds success without having classical training.
- D Vegetables such as tomatoes and carrots can be used to make sound.



**7** What can be inferred about the instruments made by the Vienna Vegetable Orchestra?

527810\_1

- A They are used for only one performance.
- B They are made only from cucumbers.
- C They require many special tools.
- D They take a long time to finish.

**8** Which sentence best supports the idea that the Vienna Vegetable Orchestra is popular?

527850\_3

- A Members of the Vienna Vegetable Orchestra are quite inventive.
- B Members of the orchestra develop new instruments all the time.
- C The orchestra tours in Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.
- D It's hard to imagine that instruments carved out of vegetables could actually make music, but they do.

**9** This passage would most likely be found in a

527904\_4

- A book of folk tales.
- B collection of recipes.
- C social studies textbook.
- D magazine for young readers.



## The Pigeon and the Peacock

by Jill Esbaum

At the end of our driveway,  
where streams of soapy water  
have pooled against the curb,  
struts a pigeon.

5 He circles a puddle,  
cocking his head  
first one way,  
then another,  
admiring his iridescent feathers  
10 and trying to determine his most flattering profile.

At the top of our driveway,  
where my brother waxes his car and  
buffs its windows to mirrored perfection,  
struts a peacock who's in love with himself. . . .

15 My brother.  
He circles the car,  
cocking his head  
first one way,  
then another,  
20 practicing his lover-boy smile  
and striking a muscle pose in the windshield.

A car splashes by,  
dousing the pompous pigeon,  
and I tiptoe around the garage

25 with a well-aimed hose.



**10 Which line from the poem contains an example of hyperbole?**

527989\_3

- A have pooled against the curb,
- B admiring his iridescent feathers
- C buffs its windows to mirrored perfection,
- D practicing his lover-boy smile

**11 Which word means the same as dousing as it is used in line 23?**

527679\_4

- A frightening
- B capturing
- C noticing
- D soaking

**12 The phrase “pompous pigeon” in line 23 is an example of**

528001\_2

- A onomatopoeia.
- B alliteration.
- C rhyme.
- D meter.

**13 How does the author compare the brother to a peacock?**

527867\_2

- A by explaining their thoughts
- B by describing their behavior
- C by showing the problems they face
- D by having them interact with each other



**14** After reading the last stanza of the poem, the reader can predict that

527790\_3

- A the peacock is the family's pet.
- B the pigeon's nest is near the driveway.
- C the speaker will spray water on the brother.
- D the brother will drive his car around the neighborhood.

**15** Which statement best represents the theme of the poem?

527840\_3

- A Beauty can be found in ordinary things.
- B Being positive makes a person feel good.
- C Vanity can make a person appear comical.
- D Working hard makes a person feel accomplished.

**16** The reader can tell that "The Pigeon and the Peacock" is a poem because it

527905\_4

- A establishes a conflict.
- B develops characters.
- C has a turning point.
- D is written in verse.

**17** Which resource would most likely provide information about peacocks?

528032\_1

- A a book: *Fun Facts About Birds*
- B a manual: *How to Care for Pet Birds*
- C a pamphlet: "Bird Watching at the Zoo"
- D a magazine article: "A Spectacle of Migrating Birds"



Read "A Sea Turtle's Quiet Miracle" and "Baby Turtles Return Home."  
Then answer the questions that follow.

100651

## A Sea Turtle's Quiet Miracle

by Lorraine A. Jay



- 1 One summer night, my daughter Meg and I walked in the moonlight along a Florida beach. It was nearly ten o'clock. The sunbathers and surfers had all gone home, and we were alone.
- 2 Suddenly we saw a sea turtle crawling out of the water. Her wet shell was more than three feet long, and it shone in the moonlight. She looked from side to side, then pressed her head to the sand as if to taste it or smell it. Did she remember this beach?
- 3 Scientists think a female sea turtle will lay her eggs on the same beach where she was born. Had this turtle found her way back after so many years at sea? Like other nesting sea turtles, she had waited until dark to leave the ocean.
- 4 Meg and I watched as the turtle crawled up the beach a few inches at a time. Her flippers were perfect for swimming, but they were not much help to her on land. She stopped every few minutes to rest.
- 5 Finally, the turtle reached the sand dunes. Here, her nest would be safe from the high tide. We didn't dare move. We knew that even a small sound or movement might scare her back to the water.
- 6 At the base of a dune, the turtle started sweeping the sand with her front flippers. She made a hollow space to settle herself into. Then she dug a hole for her eggs with her back flippers.
- 7 A sea turtle will lay more than one hundred eggs at a time. Each egg is about the size of a table-tennis ball. When this turtle finished laying her eggs, she gently covered them with sand to hide them from raccoons and other animals that would eat them.



- 8 When her work was done, she tried to circle back to the sea. But she was too close to the dune. The wall of sand blocked her path. Sea turtles cannot back up on land, so she dug forward into the dune. As she dug, sand from above fell on her until we could no longer see her. She seemed to be trapped!
- 9 Meg wanted to help. Slowly we moved closer, but the turtle surprised us. She had turned around under the heap of sand. Now she was facing the sea, and she wasted no time crawling back across the beach to the water.
- 10 It was almost midnight when we watched the turtle disappear under the waves. Her babies would hatch in about two months and crawl toward the water on their own.
- 11 We had been very lucky to watch a sea turtle laying her eggs. It was one of nature's quiet miracles.



## Baby Turtles Return Home

by Cheryl Rondeau

- 1 With traces of white froth on her shell, Mother Turtle moves out of the ocean. She uses her wing-like front flippers to drag herself across the sandy beach.
- 2 Mother Turtle is on the beach for a special reason. It is time for her to dig a nest and lay her eggs.
- 3 Soon she finds the perfect spot and begins her work. She uses her paddle-like back flippers to dig a deep, round hole. She steadies herself above the nest, and, one by one, the eggs plop into the hole. After Mother Turtle has laid all her eggs, she fills the nest with warm, damp sand.
- 4 Mother Turtle's job is done. Slowly she makes her way back home—to the sea.
- 5 A few months later, the turtle eggs hatch. All at once, when the moon is high, baby turtles spring up from the sand. The open beach is dangerous for the turtles. They must hurry to the sea before other animals catch them.
- 6 Most of the turtles skitter to the sea and swim away to safety. But nearby lights confuse two of the turtles. Instead of going toward the water, they crawl toward the lighted walkway.
- 7 "Look Papa," a girl says, "tiny turtles."
- 8 "They must be lost," says her father. "They need to be in the sea."
- 9 The girl and her father gently scoop up the turtles and carry them to the ocean. They set the turtles on the sand near the water's edge.
- 10 The turtles sense the safety of the gently lapping waves. They scoot as fast as they can to their new home—to the sea.





**18** In "A Sea Turtle's Quiet Miracle," what is the main reason the sea turtle buries her eggs? 527736\_3

- A to keep them moist
- B to shield them from the sun
- C to protect them from enemies
- D to help them hatch very quickly

**19** Which sentence from "A Sea Turtle's Quiet Miracle" is an opinion? 527883\_4

- A Like other nesting sea turtles, she had waited until dark to leave the ocean.
- B Finally, the turtle reached the sand dunes.
- C She had turned around under the heap of sand.
- D It was one of nature's quiet miracles.

**20** "A Sea Turtle's Quiet Miracle" is told from whose point of view? 527963\_1

- A the parent
- B the daughter
- C the baby turtle
- D the mother turtle



**21** Which statement from “Baby Turtles Return Home” best supports the idea that it was difficult for Mother Turtle to walk on the beach?

527776\_2

- A With traces of white froth on her shell, Mother Turtle moves out of the ocean.
- B She uses her wing-like front flippers to drag herself across the sandy beach.
- C Mother Turtle is on the beach for a special reason.
- D She steadies herself above the nest, and, one by one, the eggs plop into the hole.

**22** “Baby Turtles Return Home” would most likely be found in

528051\_2

- A an encyclopedia entry.
- B a children’s magazine.
- C a travel journal.
- D an ocean guide.

**23** How do the authors of both selections organize their writing?

527872\_2

- A cause and effect
- B sequence of events
- C problem and solution
- D compare and contrast



**24** The purpose of both selections is

527949\_1

- A** to explain the life cycle of turtles.
- B** to describe how mother turtles survive in the ocean.
- C** to persuade the reader to keep the environment clean.
- D** to demonstrate the effects of rescuing helpless animals.

**25** "Baby Turtles Return Home" is different from "A Sea Turtle's Quiet Miracle" because the focus is mainly on the

527699\_4

- A** struggle of the mother turtle.
- B** reason turtles bury their eggs.
- C** danger sea turtles face on land.
- D** hatching of the sea turtle's eggs.



