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# **Grade 5 English Language Arts**

## ***Sample Test Items***



**You will read two passages, “The Fox and the Horse” and “Brother Deer and Brother Snail Have a Race.” Answer the questions about each passage as well as questions about both passages.**

## **The Fox and the Horse**

by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm

- 1        A peasant had a faithful horse which had grown old and could do no more work, so his master could no longer care for the horse and said, “I can certainly make no more use of you, but still I mean well by you, and if you prove yourself still strong enough to bring me a lion here, I will maintain you. But for now get out of my stable.” And with that he chased him into the open field.
- 2        The horse was sad, and went to the forest to seek a little protection there from the weather. There the fox met him and said, “Why do you hang your head so, and go about all alone?”
- 3        “Alas,” replied the horse, “greed and loyalty do not dwell together in one house. My master has forgotten what services I have performed for him for so many years, and because I can no longer plow well, he will give me no more food, and has driven me out.”
- 4        “Without giving you a chance?” asked the fox.
- 5        “The chance was a bad one. He said, if I were still strong enough to bring him a lion, he would keep me, but he well knows that I cannot do that.”
- 6        The fox said, “I will help you. Just lie down, stretch out as if you were dead, and do not stir.”
- 7        The horse did what the fox asked, and then the fox went to the lion, who had his den not far off, and said, “A dead horse is lying out there. Just come with me, and you can have a rich meal.”
- 8        The lion went with him, and when they were both standing by the horse the fox said, “After all, it is not very

comfortable for you here — I tell you what — I will fasten it to you by the tail, and then you can drag it into your cave and eat it in peace.”

9        This advice pleased the lion. He positioned himself, and in order that the fox might tie the horse fast to him, he kept completely quiet. But the fox tied the lion’s legs together with the horse’s tail, and twisted and fastened everything so well and so strongly that no amount of strength could pull it loose. When he had finished his work, he tapped the horse on the shoulder and said, “Pull, horse, pull!”

10       Then up sprang the horse at once, and pulled the lion away with him. The lion began to roar so that all the birds in the forest flew up in terror, but the horse let him roar, and drew him and dragged him across the field to his master’s door. When the master saw the lion, he was of a better mind, and said to the horse, “You shall stay with me and fare well.” And he gave him plenty to eat until he died.



Adapted from “The Fox and the Horse” by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm.

**Answer the following questions for “The Fox and the Horse.”**

**1.** What can the reader infer about the horse’s feelings about the master in the first part of the story “The Fox and the Horse”?

- Ⓐ The horse feels determined because the master gave him a job.
- Ⓑ The horse feels relieved because the master welcomed him home.
- Ⓒ The horse feels encouraged because the master agreed to feed him.
- Ⓓ The horse feels betrayed because the master gave him an unfair choice.

**2.** How does the reader know that the horse has given up?

- Ⓐ The horse pulled the lion.
- Ⓑ The horse hung his head.
- Ⓒ The horse laid on the ground.
- Ⓓ The horse went into the forest.

- 3.** What is different in the relationship between the fox and the horse and the master and the horse at the beginning of the story?
- Ⓐ The fox encourages the horse, while the master is impressed with the horse.
  - Ⓑ The fox tricks the horse, while the master is patient with the horse.
  - Ⓒ The fox ignores the horse, while the master welcomes the horse.
  - Ⓓ The fox helps the horse, while the master is unkind to the horse.

# Brother Deer and Brother Snail Have a Race

retold by E. Angelica Whitmal

- 1        The animals gathered at the lagoon (shallow pond) and were having a pleasant conversation when Brother Deer pranced up and joined the group. "What y'all talking about?" he said as he quenched his thirst. All of the animals fell silent. They had been discussing having a race, but they knew this would lead to Brother Deer's bragging about how he was the fastest animal in the community. "Er, uh, we were, um, talking about. . ." started Mouse. "We were discussing the possibility of having a race," replied Elephant. "A race!" Brother Deer reared back on his hind legs and said, "Y'all know I am faster than fast, right? I mean no one is faster than the Deermaster."
  
- 2        Tired of hearing Brother Deer boast, Brother Snail said, "Brother Deer, I think I'd like to race you." The other animals looked shocked and Brother Deer began to laugh so hard that he almost fell into the lagoon. "Oh, boy, there will be no living with Brother Deer after this race," said Elephant.
  
- 3        On the day of the race, Brother Deer sprinted back and forth as he smiled at Brother Snail. Finally, they gathered at the starting line and Brother Deer looked around for Brother Snail. Little did Brother Deer realize that Brother Snail had climbed up on Brother Deer's tail and was holding on tightly. Tired of waiting, Brother Deer said, "Let's get the thing started already. I'm ready to win so I can remind you all who is the fastest!"
  
- 4        So, someone shouted, "Ready, set, go!" and Brother Deer took off as fast as, well, lightning. When he arrived at the finish line, he strutted back and forth for a few minutes. When he asked, "Has anyone seen Brother Snail?" the other animals laughed heartily. "No, we can't say we've seen him," said Elephant. Brother Deer went to sit down and Brother Snail cried out, "Man, get up off of me. I've been sitting here waiting for you to arrive. What took you so long?"

- 5        The other animals decided to play along with Brother Snail's joke and called the race in his favor, much to Brother Deer's embarrassment.



"Brother Deer and Brother Snail Have a Race" by E. Angelica Whitmal, *Footsteps*, May 1, 2006. Copyright © 2006 by Cricket Media. Used with permission of Cricket Media, Inc.



**Answer the following questions for “Brother Deer and Brother Snail Have a Race.”**

- 4.** Select the actions Brother Deer or Brother Snail take before the race.

	Brother Deer	Brother Snail
teases other animals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
comes up with a plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
brags about being the fastest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
meets with the other animals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

**Part A**

In paragraph 2, what do Brother Deer and the other animals think about Brother Snail wanting to race?

- Ⓐ They think that Brother Deer will finally lose a race.
- Ⓑ They think it is strange that Brother Snail would want to race.
- Ⓒ They think Brother Snail was joking about racing Brother Deer.
- Ⓓ They think it is impossible for Brother Snail to win against Brother Deer.

**Part B**

Which quotation from the story supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ "Tired of hearing Brother Deer boast, . . ." (paragraph 2)
- Ⓑ "The other animals looked shocked. . . ." (paragraph 2)
- Ⓒ ". . . gathered at the starting line. . . ." (paragraph 3)
- Ⓓ ". . . climbed up on Brother Deer's tail. . . ." (paragraph 3)

6. Read the sentence from paragraph 2.

**“Oh, boy, there will be no living with Brother Deer after this race,” said Elephant.**

What can the reader infer Elephant thinks about Brother Deer?

- Ⓐ Brother Deer will be upset after losing the race.
- Ⓑ Brother Deer will brag more after winning the race.
- Ⓒ Brother Deer will want to have races against the other animals.
- Ⓓ Brother Deer will be annoyed about being tricked during the race.

7. The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

**Part A**

Why does the author include paragraph 3 in “Brother Deer and Brother Snail Have a Race”?

- Ⓐ to show Brother Snail’s plan to defeat Brother Deer
- Ⓑ to show Brother Deer’s impatience with Brother Snail
- Ⓒ to show Brother Deer’s confidence on the day of the race
- Ⓓ to show Brother Snail’s uncertainty on the day of the race

**Part B**

Which quotation from paragraph 3 supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ “On the day of the race, Brother Deer sprinted back and forth as he smiled at Brother Snail.”
- Ⓑ “Finally, they gathered at the starting line and Brother Deer looked around for Brother Snail.”
- Ⓒ “Little did Brother Deer realize that Brother Snail had climbed up on Brother Deer’s tail and was holding on tightly.”
- Ⓓ “Tired of waiting, Brother Deer said, ‘Let’s get the thing started already.’”

8. Select three sentences to include in a summary of the story.

	Include in Summary
The animals kept the race a secret.	<input type="radio"/>
Brother Snail asked Brother Deer to race.	<input type="radio"/>
Brother Snail climbed Brother Deer’s tail.	<input type="radio"/>
Brother Deer sprinted back and forth.	<input type="radio"/>
The animals said Brother Snail won.	<input type="radio"/>

**Answer the following questions for “The Fox and the Horse” and “Brother Deer and Brother Snail Have a Race.”**

9. Match the descriptions to the correct characters from the stories.

	Horse	Snail
has given up	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
determined not to fail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
eager to prove himself	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
willing to accept help	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- 10.** Select two details from “The Fox and the Horse” and “Brother Deer and Brother Snail Have a Race” that support the theme of working together.
- Ⓐ “The horse did what the fox asked, . . .” (“The Fox and the Horse,” paragraph 7)
  - Ⓑ “This advice pleased the lion.” (“The Fox and the Horse,” paragraph 9)
  - Ⓒ “. . . there will be no living with Brother Deer after this race,” said Elephant.” (“Brother Deer and Brother Snail Have a Race,” paragraph 2)
  - Ⓓ “. . . Brother Snail had climbed up on Brother Deer’s tail. . . .” (“Brother Deer and Brother Snail Have a Race,” paragraph 3)
  - Ⓔ “The other animals . . . called the race in his favor, . . .” (“Brother Deer and Brother Snail Have a Race,” paragraph 5)

**You will read two passages, “The Oldest Snack in America” and “Pop!” Answer the questions about each passage as well as questions about both passages.**

## **The Oldest Snack in America**

by M. Ann Baker

- 1        Go to a movie and what do you smell? Hot, buttered popcorn—the oldest snack in America. Even before Christopher Columbus reached the New World, native people had been munching on *ma-hiz* (the Indian name for corn) for more than 5,000 years.
  
- 2        European explorers saw Aztecs dressed in necklaces and ceremonial headdresses made of popcorn. Native Americans brought popcorn to peace negotiations with the English colonists as a token of goodwill.
  
- 3        The oldest popcorn ears are 5,600-year-old cobs found in Bat Cave, New Mexico. The first way of popping corn was by placing it on hot stones over a fire or by tossing it into the fire and letting it pop out. Imagine trying to catch your snack as it flies into the air, hot as a spark!
  
- 4        The Winnebago tribe popped its popcorn right on the cob. The Iroquois placed popcorn in pottery with heated sand, which popped the kernels. Even today, the Papagos in Arizona pop popcorn in large clay *ollas* over a fire.
  
- 5        What makes popcorn pop? A tiny drop of water is stored in each kernel. As the kernel gets hot, the water heats and builds up pressure. The hard outside surface resists the water pressure for as long as it can. When it finally gives way, the water further expands, causing the popcorn to explode. It’s funny to think that one of our favorite foods is made by an explosion!



“The Oldest Snack in America” by M. Ann Baker, from *Appleseeds Magazine*, November 1, 2001, copyright © 2001, Cricket Media. Used by permission.

**Answer the following questions for “The Oldest Snack in America.”**

- 11.** In “The Oldest Snack in America,” what can the reader conclude about how the English colonists felt about popcorn?
- Ⓐ They were willing to accept it as a gift from the Native Americans.
  - Ⓑ They were willing to experiment with different ways of popping corn.
  - Ⓒ They were afraid of the popcorn popping from the fire and causing injury.
  - Ⓓ They were interested in visiting the cave in New Mexico where popcorn was discovered.
- 12.** Which quotation from the “The Oldest Snack in America” supports the idea that popcorn has been used for more than eating?
- Ⓐ “Even before Christopher Columbus reached the New World, native people had been munching on *ma-hiz* (the Indian name for corn) for more than 5,000 years.” (paragraph 1)
  - Ⓑ “Native Americans brought popcorn to peace negotiations with the English colonists as a token of goodwill.” (paragraph 2)
  - Ⓒ “Imagine trying to catch your snack as it flies into the air, hot as a spark!” (paragraph 3)
  - Ⓓ “It’s funny to think that one of our favorite foods is made by an explosion!” (paragraph 5)



**13.** How does the author support the idea that popcorn has been around for thousands of years?

- Ⓐ by showing how popcorn explodes
- Ⓑ by showing how people today eat popcorn
- Ⓒ by showing how various tribes popped corn
- Ⓓ by showing how people enjoy popcorn at movies

# Pop!

by Meg Moss

1       What’s the story behind everyone’s favorite exploding food?

2       Ancient Americans were the first to grow and eat popcorn around 9,000 years ago. The Aztec people of southern Mexico called it *totopoca*, which if you say it fast kind of sounds like the popping noise the cooking corn makes. Archaeologists have unearthed ancient ears of popping corn in the American Southwest as well. When they dropped the old kernels in some hot sand, lo and behold, they still popped after over 1,000 years. This amazing feat is largely due to each kernel’s sturdy, protective outer layer, or hull. This hard hull, it turns out, is also key to what makes popcorn pop.

## Snack-robotics

3       Surprisingly, no one really knew what goes on when popcorn pops until recently. In 2015, two French scientists decided to unravel the secrets of the acrobatic snack. At what temperature does it pop best? What makes it jump? And, most important, what makes that popping noise? Using high-speed cameras and microphones, Emmanuel Virot and Alexandre Ponomarenko patiently filmed and recorded hundreds of kernels of corn popping one at a time. As they studied the slow-motion films, they made three discoveries.

4       First, popcorn pops best at a temperature of 356° F (180° C). As an unpopped kernel heats up, water inside the kernel boils and turns to steam. Steam pressure builds up inside until there is enough to burst the kernel’s tough hull.

5       Once the hull cracks, the steam causes the starch inside, which is kind of like bread dough, to puff up and force its way out of the shell. This starch squirting out—called a “leg”—pushes against the bottom of the pot. This makes the kernel jump, much the same way that straightening a bent leg can push you off the ground and into the air. The discovery surprised the scientists. It disproved the popular “rocket” theory that escaping steam launches popcorn into its jump.

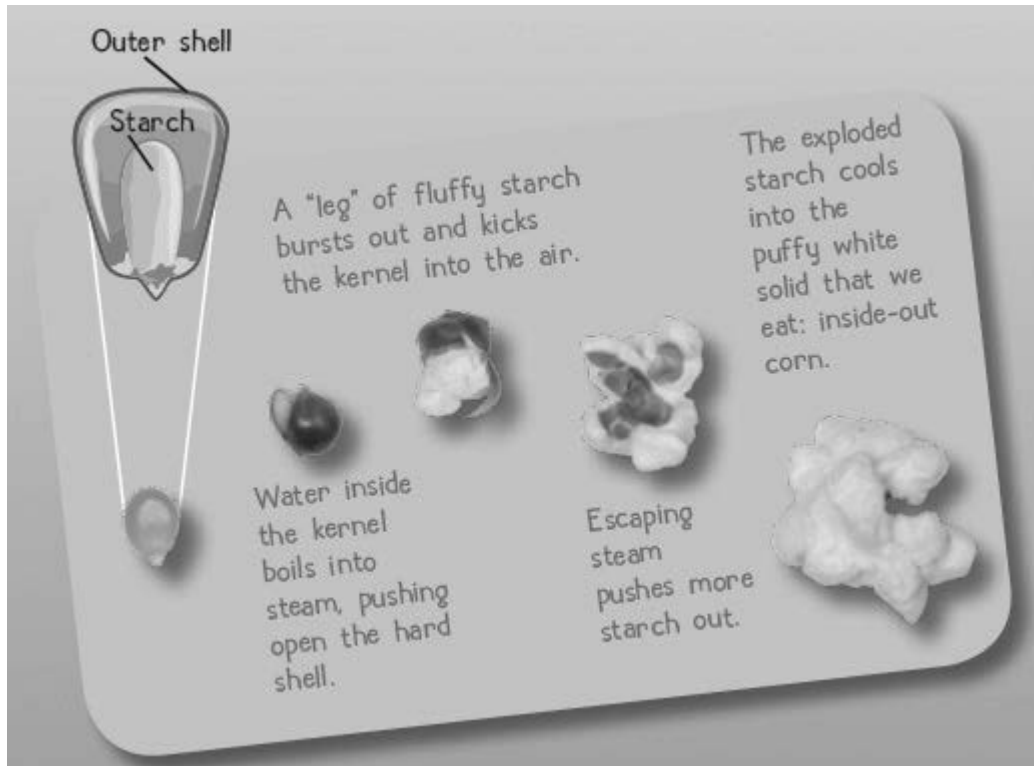
Once it makes its first leap, the popcorn continues to bloom while it spins through the air like an acrobat.

6 But what about the popping sound? People used to think that the cracking hull causes the distinctive “pop” we know and love.

7 But Virost and Ponomarenko found something different. As the starch blossoms into the popcorn flake (as the popped kernel is called), speeding steam echoes around the hollows in the flake to make the popping noise. And the entire process, from exploding kernel to tender white flake, takes just 1/15th of a second.

8 Explaining the motion, heat energy, and sound of popcorn touches on many different fields of science. Virost recommends popcorn as a subject for serious study and experiments because so much can be learned from it.

9 But popcorn science is not without peril. Ponomarenko recalls that while at work in their lab, the smell of popcorn would often lure other scientists to come and visit—“some of whom ended up in the coffee room eating our experiment.”



Text and illustration from "Pop!" by Meg Moss, from Ask Magazine, July 1, 2016, copyright © 2016, Cricket Media. Used by permission.

**Answer the following questions for “Pop!”**

**14.** Which word could replace unearthed as it is used in paragraph 2 of “Pop!”?

- Ⓐ uncovered
- Ⓑ underground
- Ⓒ unexpected
- Ⓓ unseen

**15.** Read the sentence from paragraph 9.

**But popcorn science is not without peril.**

What is the meaning of the word peril as it is used in the sentence?

- Ⓐ butter
- Ⓑ heat
- Ⓒ kernels
- Ⓓ problems

**16.** Why does the author of "Pop!" include an illustration?

- Ⓐ to show readers how a popcorn hull cracks
- Ⓑ to show readers the stages of popping corn
- Ⓒ to show readers that popcorn is like a rocket
- Ⓓ to show readers what a popcorn hull looks like

**17.** Select the correct order for the sentences to show how a kernel becomes popcorn.

	Step #1	Step #2	Step #3	Step #4	Step #5
Water inside kernel creates steam.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The kernel heats up.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The hull bursts.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Starch comes out of the kernel.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The kernel jumps.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

18. Read the phrase from paragraph 9 of "Pop!"

**. . . the smell of popcorn would often lure other scientists to come and visit— . . .**

What does the word "lure" help the reader understand about the popcorn?

- Ⓐ The smell of the popcorn was bothersome.
- Ⓑ The smell of the popcorn made others hungry.
- Ⓒ The smell of the popcorn convinced others to help with the experiment.
- Ⓓ The smell of the popcorn reminded others it was time for a break in the workday.

**Answer the following questions for "The Oldest Snack in America" and "Pop!"**

19. The author of "The Oldest Snack in America" concludes that popcorn was discovered a long time ago. Which detail from "Pop!" supports that idea?

- Ⓐ Popcorn was called *totopoca* by the Aztec people.
- Ⓑ Ancient Americans grew and ate popcorn around 9,000 years ago.
- Ⓒ Archaeologists put kernels more than a thousand years old in hot sand and they popped.
- Ⓓ Two French scientists, Virot and Ponomarenko, found out the secrets of popcorn in 2015.

**20.** What is a common point of view shared by the two authors of “Pop!” and “The Oldest Snack in America”?

- Ⓐ Both believe scientists should study more about popcorn.
- Ⓑ Both believe popcorn should be used for more than eating.
- Ⓒ Both believe people should be careful when popping popcorn.
- Ⓓ Both believe ancient people should be given credit for discovering popcorn.



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**Grade 5 ELA Sample Test Items  
Paper-Pencil Answer Key Document**

<b>Passage</b>	<b>Sequence</b>	<b>Key</b>	<b>Standard</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
The Fox and the Horse	1	D	RL.5.1	1
The Fox and the Horse	2	B	RL.5.1	1
The Fox and the Horse	3	D	RL.5.3	1
Brother Deer and Brother Snail Have a Race	4	1, 4, 5, 8	RL.5.3	2
Brother Deer and Brother Snail Have a Race	5	D B	RL.5.1	2
Brother Deer and Brother Snail Have a Race	6	B	RL.5.1	1
Brother Deer and Brother Snail Have a Race	7	A C	RL.5.5	2
Brother Deer and Brother Snail Have a Race	8	2/1, 3/1, 5/1	RL.5.2	2
The Fox and the Horse   Brother Deer and Brother Snail Have a Race	9	1, 4, 6, 7	RL.5.3	2
The Fox and the Horse   Brother Deer and Brother Snail Have a Race	10	A, E	RL.5.9	2
The Oldest Snack in America	11	A	RI.5.3	1
The Oldest Snack in America	12	B	RI.5.1	1
The Oldest Snack in America	13	C	RI.5.8	1
Pop!	14	A	RI.5.4	1
Pop!	15	D	L.5.4	1
Pop!	16	B	RI.5.7	1
Pop!	17	2/1, 1/2, 3/3, 4/4, 5/5	RI.5.2	2
Pop!	18	B	L.5.5	1
The Oldest Snack in America   Pop!	19	B	RI.5.9	1
The Oldest Snack in America   Pop!	20	D	RI.5.9	1