

# Grade 5 to 6 ALP English Assessments

February, 2022



# Overview of the Placement Process

All 5th Graders interested in being considered for 6th Grade ALP English will take three assessments:

- CoGat Verbal Battery
- NWEA Reading Assessment
- Literacy Performance Task

Students that meet the requirements will be offered a placement into Middle School ALP English.

# Ability Assessment



- Test of thinking and abstract reasoning ability
  - Reasoning abilities are those higher-level cognitive processes that reflect general aptitude for thought—strategies such as inferring, analyzing, and problem solving.
- Examines innate learning ability rather than school-based learning

# CogAT Verbal Battery

## Verbal Analogies

**White** → snow : **black** →

**A** brown   **B** bronze   **C** rain   **D** coal   **E** clouds

## Sentence Completion

On the way home from school, Lashanda jumped in many \_\_\_\_\_ that the rain had left.

**A** rivers   **B** puddles   **C** flowers   **D** holes   **E** lakes

## Verbal Classification

**Apple**   **Orange**   **Pear**

**A** fruit   **B** carrot   **C** pea   **D** lemon   **E** onion



# Measures of Academic Progress™ (MAP)

## Achievement Assessments

- Are heavily dependent on formal learning acquired in school or at home
- Measure what a student has learned over a certain period of time, particularly reading
- Do not measure how a student thinks or a student's potential



# NWEA MAP

## Reading Sample Questions

### Read the passage.

Elizabeth Bennet had been obliged, by the scarcity of gentlemen, to sit down for two dances; and during part of that time, Mr. Darcy had been standing near. *(Passage continues.)*

(from Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen)

### How is Elizabeth Bennet influenced by the dialogue between Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley?

1. Because Elizabeth overhears Mr. Darcy's insulting comments, she insists on sitting alone rather than dance with him.
2. Elizabeth discovers that Mr. Darcy's refusal to dance is due to his shy nature and forgives his behavior.
- ✓ 3. Despite believing that Mr. Darcy is impolite and self-important, Elizabeth maintains an upbeat attitude.
4. Elizabeth develops a new, playful sense of humor around Mr. Darcy to draw him out of his foul mood.

### Read the passage.

The efficiency of a book is like that of a man, in one important respect: its attitude toward its subject is the first source of its power. A book may be full of good ideas well expressed, but if its writer views his subject from the wrong angle even his excellent advice may prove to be ineffective. *(Passage continues.)*

(from The Art of Public Speaking by J. Berg Esenwein and Dale Carnegie)

### Which conclusion about becoming an effective speaker can be drawn from the passage?

1. Effective speaking is the result of study followed by earnest practice.
2. Effective speaking requires training in and adherence to a specific set of rules.
- ✓ 3. Effective speaking requires self-discipline and personal conviction about the topic.
4. Effective speaking is the result of practicing the speeches and styles of noted speakers.

# NWEA MAP

## Reading Sample Questions

### Read the poem.

Hope is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul,  
And sings the tune without the words,  
And never stops at all. (*Poem continues.*)  
(from "Hope" by Emily Dickinson)

**Which statement best expresses the meaning of the extended metaphor that compares hope to a bird throughout the poem?**

- ✓ 1. Hope is a constant presence and gives people comfort.
- 2. Hope flies away like a bird during storms and difficult times.
- 3. Hope is demanding, like a bird that constantly needs to be cared for.
- 4. Hope tries to sing songs that are uplifting but forgets the words to them.

### Read the report excerpt.

Over the last century, the amount of precipitation has increased significantly across eastern parts of North America.  
(*Passage continues.*)

(from "Adaptation Options for Climate-Sensitive Ecosystems and Resources" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

**Which feature of this text most assures the validity of the information?**

- 1. the vocabulary
- 2. the author's tone
- ✓ 3. the use of citations
- 4. the use of percents



# NWEA MAP

## Reading Sample Questions

### Read the sentence and dictionary entry.

The lives saved when the volcano exploded vindicated the expensive early warning system.

#### Dictionary

**vindicate** (vin-di-keyt) *v.*

1. to free from an accusation
2. to justify based on evidence
3. to defend against opposition
4. to claim for oneself or for someone else

#### Which definition of vindicate is used in the sentence?

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. definition 1   | 3. definition 3 |
| ✓ 2. definition 2 | 4. definition 4 |

### Read the sentence.

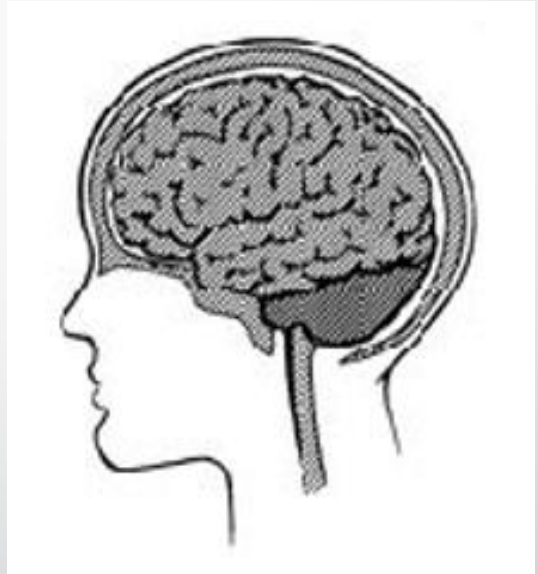
Although the storm outside was ferocious, Nate left the comfort of the cabin and trudged toward home.

#### Which word best matches the connotative meaning of ferocious as it is used in the sentence?

1. barbaric
2. inhuman
- ✓ 3. intense
4. untamed

# Performance Assessments

- Measure a student's ability to integrate knowledge and skills across multiple standards and requires a student to create, manipulate or re-work intellectual academic content in a practical and authentic performance that demonstrates student learning.
- Require students to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and strategies by creating a response or a product.



# Reading Performance Task Sample

## The Road Not Taken

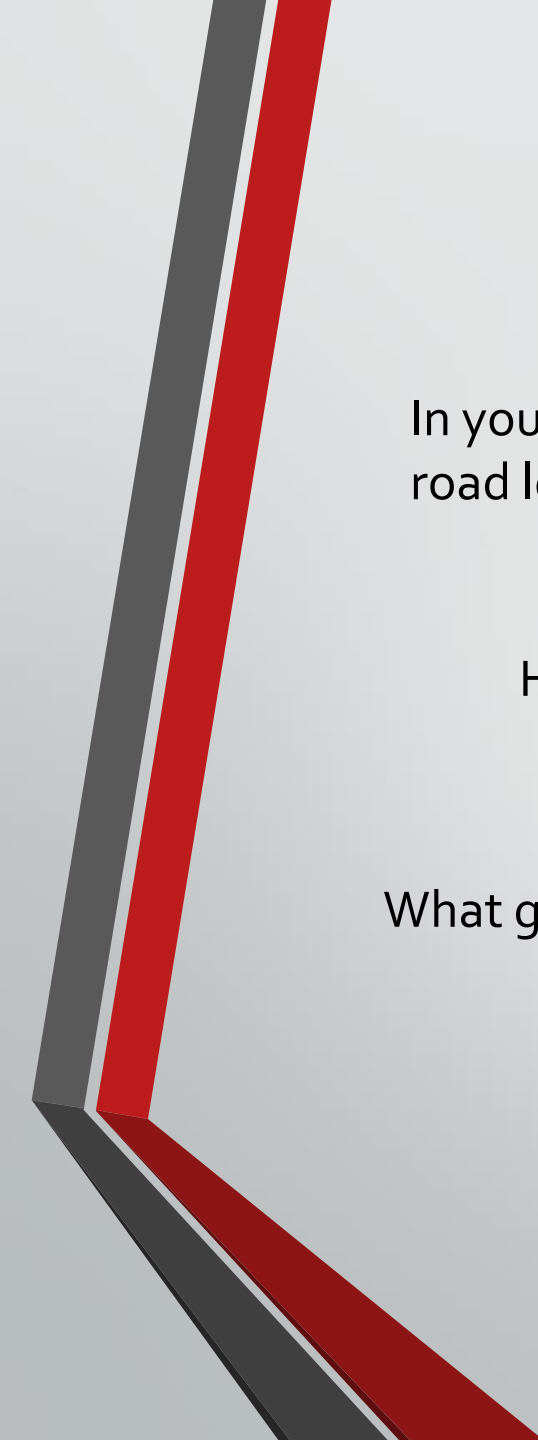
By Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.



Performance Tasks  
(Integration of Knowledge and Skills)

**Reading Performance Task Sample Questions**

In your own words, tell what the speaker means by the lines, "I took the road less traveled by, And that has made all the difference."

How does the title contribute to the overall meaning of the poem?

What gives Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken" its power?

**Use evidence to support from the text to support your analysis.**

## In your own words, tell what the speaker mean by the lines, "I took the road less traveled by, and that has made all the difference."

- **Sample Response Level 1** The man went the way most people wouldn't go, and he might have discovered new things.
- **Sample Response Level 2** I think that the speaker means that he had different experiences in his life because of the choices he made. The roads represent paths in his life, not actual roads.
- **Sample Response Level 3** For the speaker, the decision that made the biggest difference in his life, was doing exactly what he wanted to do, even if it was the less obvious or safe choice. He is proud of his decision and believes that it was making this choice that allowed him to live his life as he had and be the person who he is.
- **Sample Response Level 4** This is the most telling stanza of the poem. It talks about how we rewrite our own histories. We tell stories and revise our memories as if decisions were made differently than they really were. "I shall be telling this with a sigh, Somewhere ages and ages hence" means someday, down the road, when I'm old and telling stories about my past, I'll sigh and say that I took the road less traveled by and that's what "made all the difference" in how my life turned out. But we, the readers, know that it wasn't taking that road that made the difference. In fact, that road that I took, it wasn't any less traveled by than the first. We know that from the first and second stanzas. The roads were the same. This poem is so much more complex than just "Hey, I took a road that most people don't take, and that has made my life better and that's why I got all the amazing results I got in my life." The message is far more like, "I took a road. It could've been another road. But this is the one I took. One day, I'll say that it was this choice, in this moment, to take this particular road that made my life better, but in fact, both roads weren't very different from one another, so my life might've been different if I'd taken the other road, but probably would've yielded other cool stuff."



# Building Advisory Committee

Score reports reviewed

Students that meet the requirements will be offered a placement into Middle School ALP English.