RENAISSANCE

RENAISSANCE
Star Reading®

Sample items

Domain	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Word Knowledge and Skills Covers knowledge and understanding of vocabulary as well as the ability to use the strategies.	Jada will <u>feed</u> her pets every day. She will give them food that is good for them. What does *feed* mean? ① **to give food to** ② to take a bath ③ to play with	Don likes to <u>write</u> letters to his friends. Which word has the same base word as *write*? ① kite ② real ③ **writing**	I am <u>beginning</u> to understand how to play this game. Which word means the same as *beginning*? ① knowing ② **starting** ③ winning
Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning Covers strategies such as self-monitoring, making predictions, drawing conclusions, and using organizational structure of text to improve understanding.	Beth rides the bus to school. She sits with Ann. After school, the girls ride the bus home. They talk about their day. How do the girls get home? ① They walk home. ② **They ride the bus.** ③ Their moms pick them up.	Elephants are the largest animals on land. They can be over twenty feet long and twelve feet tall. They have very big ears, long trunks, and short tails. They can move very fast if they need to. What shows how big elephants are? ① **They can be over twenty feet long.** ② They can move very fast. ③ They have short tails.	Kerry pulled on her new jacket and grabbed her bike. She rode around the park for a few minutes. She stopped to take off her jacket and put it in the bike basket. Then she rode her bike again. Why does Kerry take off her jacket? ① It doesn't fit anymore. ② It is a new jacket. ③ **She is too warm.**
Analyzing Literary Text Covers the exploration of plot, setting, character, theme, and point of view in literary text, as well as the characteristics of different genres.	Hana lived in a blue town. Everything was blue. The food was blue. The grass was blue. Everything was blue but one thing. Hana was not blue. What kind of story is this? ① **a make-believe story** ② a story about a real person ③ a story like real life	Gary lived in a big tree. Like other squirrels, he worked hard finding nuts. One day, he found a kind of nut he'd never seen before. He could not move it. "Silly squirrel," called the wise old barn owl. "That's a rock!" Who is this story about? ① a different kind of rock ② a wise old barn owl ③ **a silly squirrel named Gary**	I walked into the shop, and the shop owner smiled at me. "Glad to see you, Laila," he said. "The cloth you were looking for arrived." He spread out the cloth so I could see it. Soon other shoppers stood around us and looked at the beautiful cloth. Who is telling this story? ① **Laila** ② the shop owner ③ the shoppers

1 of 8
R54457.091018

Sample items

Domain	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Understanding Author's Craft Covers the understanding and analysis of an author's use of language and literary devices to create certain effects.	I like my yellow coat. I put it on when it is raining. It makes a funny noise when I walk. Which word tells what the coat looks like? ① raining ② **yellow** ③ noise	Anna pointed at one of the rabbits in the pen. "That's the one I want," she whispered to her brother. "Its coat is the color of snow." Which words tell you what the rabbit **looks** like? ① in the pen ② the one I want ③ **the color of snow**	A man from the zoo brought some birds to Ray's class. One was blue-gray with dark bands on its tail. Another had a light face and great big eyes. The children got to pet one of the smaller birds. When Ray petted it, he could see it had yellow eyes. The paragraph shows how the birds _____. ① feel ② **look** ③ smell
Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text Covers the recognition, analysis, and evaluation of argument in persuasive, editorial, and academic writing.	**Domain not applicable at Grade 1.**	**Domain not applicable at Grade 2.**	**Domain not applicable at Grade 3.**

Sample items

Domain	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
Word Knowledge and Skills Covers knowledge and understanding of vocabulary as well as the ability to use the strategies.	Tevin felt he was ready to read his story to the entire school. What does *felt* mean in the sentence? ① **thought** ② a kind of cloth ③ touched	The king proclaimed that today would be a holiday. What is the meaning of *proclaimed*? ① **announced or declared in public** ② whispered with kind words ③ described in great detail	Which word creates the most positive feeling? ① frail ② fragile ③ **delicate**
Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning Covers strategies such as self-monitoring, making predictions, drawing conclusions, and using organizational structure of text to improve understanding.	My cat is a wonderful friend, and he has beautiful orange fur. I often find him sitting in my room near the window. My cat's fur looks most beautiful in the golden light. Which statement is a **fact** rather than an opinion? ① The cat is a wonderful friend. ② **The cat often sits near the window.** ③ The cat's fur is most beautiful in golden light.	In 1849, thousands of hopeful people arrived in California. They had come from all over America, from big cities and small towns and farms. Some arrived from Europe. They were there to strike gold or to make money from those miners who did find the shiny metal. They set up camps and struggled to learn the ways of mining. Some really did strike it rich, but most barely got by. For what purpose was this paragraph written? ① **to inform readers about a historical event** ② to entertain readers with a story about mining ③ to persuade readers to try to strike it rich	Have you ever seen a mirage? On a hot, sunny day you might have seen one. You might see something that looks like water on the road in the distance. As you approach, the "water" might suddenly seem to move farther away. Then you will know it is a mirage. It is a trick of light, and there really is no water there. How does the author inform the reader about mirages? ① The author explains the difference between different kinds of mirages. ② The author presents several questions and answers about mirages. ③ **The author gives an example of a mirage and then explains that it is a trick of light.**
Analyzing Literary Text Covers the exploration of plot, setting, character, theme, and point of view in literary text, as well as the characteristics of different genres.	Trevon rolled down the sidewalk on his skateboard. He tried to move fast because he didn't want to be late for practice. However, his skateboard was not up to it. Trevon thought the wheels might need to be oiled. He kept glancing at his watch and worrying. Then Trevon saw the playing field up ahead. He was going to be on time. What is Trevon's problem? ① His watch is broken, so he doesn't know what time it is. ② **His skateboard is going slow, and he's worried he might be late.** ③ His skateboard wheels need oil, but he doesn't have any.	Nia was reading at the park when she saw her friend Kiara and waved. Nia was glad to see Kiara, but she couldn't talk long. Nia needed to finish her book because her report was due tomorrow. "That's okay," said Kiara. "I can sit with you and read my book too!" Then the two girls happily sat under a big oak tree and read their books. Which best describes Nia and Kiara's friendship? ① They compete with each other. ② **They know each other well.** ③ They have a hard time getting along.	Shantell Robinson polished the shiny paint on the antique motorcycle. The motorcycle had belonged to her great-grandfather. He bought it in 1924 when it was brand-new. He rode it every time he had an opportunity. It was his pride and joy. Now, years later, Mrs. Robinson still enjoys riding the motorcycle on clear, sunny afternoons. Every time she goes for a ride, she thinks of her great-grandfather. How does the motorcycle help show the theme of the story? ① The motorcycle has shiny paint but is very old and probably falling apart. ② **The motorcycle is Mrs. Robinson's connection to her great-grandfather.** ③ The great-grandfather loved the motorcycle, but Shantell Robinson does not.

Sample items

Domain	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
Understanding Author's Craft Covers the understanding and analysis of an author's use of language and literary devices to create certain effects.	Brenda watched the colorful jellyfish swim in their tank. They moved about like leaves caught in the wind, like dancers. Brenda enjoyed seeing all the animals at the aquarium. However, the jellyfish were the most fun to watch. They were beautiful and graceful like nothing she'd ever seen. What does it mean that the the jellyfish moved "like leaves caught in the wind, like dancers"? ① **They swam around and around smoothly.** ② They were being blown by the wind. ③ They moved in time to music that was playing.	Mark noticed a friend fishing nearby. His friend's son was placing peanut butter on a fishhook before dropping the line into the water. That scene made Mark think of another time long ago. He could still hear his grandfather's voice. "Mark, if you like peanut butter, why wouldn't a fish?" "But Grandpa," Mark would say, "wouldn't they want jam too?" Then they would laugh and laugh. Thinking of his grandfather, Mark went over to his friend. "Need to borrow any jam?" he asked. Which part of the story is in a flashback to the past? ① **Mark talks to his grandfather.** ② Mark goes over to his friend. ③ Mark notices a friend fishing nearby.	Kana said her stack of library books was <u>nearly a mile high</u>. Kana probably said this to explain that she _____. ① **has many books to read** ② is trying to break a world record ③ needs to visit the library
Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text Covers the recognition, analysis, and evaluation of argument in persuasive, editorial, and academic writing.	If you want a pet like a dog, you should first get a goldfish. A goldfish can help you see if you are ready to take care of a bigger pet. Goldfish are easy to take care of. You have to feed them the right amount every day. You have to keep their tank clean. If you like caring for a goldfish, you might be ready for a bigger pet. How does the author support the main claim? ① The author gives facts showing that goldfish are easier to care of than bigger pets. ② **The author explains how taking care of a goldfish can show you are ready for a bigger pet.** ③ The author tells a story about how having a goldfish helped her get ready to take care of a dog.	The school should start a publishing club. I personally already make great zines and comic books. Some people, however, need plenty of help. We have clubs for people who play sports, play chess, or paint. There is no club for people who want to learn how to publish their own work. Publishing could even become a career for students someday. Please add the publishing club soon. Which is the strongest reason for starting a publishing club? ① **Publishing could even become a career for students someday.** ② We have clubs for people who play sports, play chess, or paint. ③ I personally already make great zines and comic books.	Be prepared to laugh your socks off at this year's fabulous school show. It is a complete giggle fest. Our excellent script is stocked full of genuine belly laughs. Our performers deliver each joke with professional ease. The jokes fly as fast as the time. When the show reaches the curtain call, you'll be gasping with laughter as you're shouting for more. What does the paragraph use to convince people to go to the show? ① It uses the bandwagon technique to convince readers everyone else likes it. ② It includes the opinion of an expert who loved the show. ③ **It uses loaded words like *fabulous*, *excellent*, and *professional*.**

Sample items

Domain	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Word Knowledge and Skills Covers knowledge and understanding of vocabulary as well as the ability to use the strategies.	When a submarine is just below the surface, sailors can use a periscope. A *telescope* allows people to see far away into space. What does a *periscope* allow the people in a submarine to do? ① breathe while the submarine is underwater ② see around the surface above them ③ travel much faster though the ocean	Our cause is just, and it is my _____ belief that we will eventually prevail. Which synonym of *passionate* would fit best in the sentence above? ① emotional ② ardent ③ torrid	During Hank's presentation, someone came into the classroom on an errand from the office. The interruption made him lose his train of thought momentarily, but fortunately he had good notes. What does *lose his train of thought* mean in the sentence? ① The interruption is terribly noisy. ② The presentation is about transportation. ③ Hank forgets what he is thinking of.
Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning Covers strategies such as self-monitoring, making predictions, drawing conclusions, and using organizational structure of text to improve understanding.	There are names for different types of clouds. Layered clouds that form fog when close to the ground are called *stratus* clouds. *Cirrus* clouds are wispy and very high up. The puffy white clouds you see in the sky on sunny days are called *cumulus* clouds. Huge *cumulonimbus* clouds bring rain showers and sometimes thunderstorms. *Nimbostratus* clouds bring rain and snow. You look up in the sky and see cumulonimbus clouds. What kind of weather might you have? ① rainy ② sunny ③ foggy	When objects fall, they accelerate. All objects accelerate at the same rate due to the force of gravity. However, everyone knows that if you drop a rock and a feather at the same time, the rock will drop faster. This is because of the drag force. The drag force slows down acceleration. At a certain point, the object stops speeding up. Then it falls at a constant speed. The drag on the feather is greater than on the rock, so the feather will fall more slowly. Why does the feather fall more slowly? ① Gravity is not as strong on the feather. ② There is greater drag force on the feather. ③ The feather speeds up faster than the rock.	How hard is it to learn to play the bagpipes, you ask? I once knew a rocket scientist who was trying to learn to play them. She said it sure was a good thing she was a rocket scientist because the bagpipes were hard! How does the purpose of the passage affect the author's tone? ① The author takes a light tone as part of trying to entertain. ② The author uses a formal tone to give information on the subject. ③ The author is sarcastic to persuade readers not to play the bagpipes.
Analyzing Literary Text Covers the exploration of plot, setting, character, theme, and point of view in literary text, as well as the characteristics of different genres.	There was too much cleaning to do in Colleen's house. She found it difficult to organize her tasks and deal with them in the right order of importance. Colleen decided to fill the kitchen sink with dish soap and water and scrub the pots. As she stood there scrubbing, the comfort of the familiar task relaxed her. It allowed her thoughts to fall into place. Soon Colleen realized that, as usual, she should make a list and number her tasks in their order of importance. How is the conflict resolved? ① Colleen becomes familiar with the household chores. ② Colleen clears her thoughts by washing dishes. ③ Colleen finishes her tasks in their order of importance.	The historic hotel lobby was dimly lit and as quiet as a library. The dusty orange carpeting swallowed the sound of Jan's footsteps. She paused at the desk before tapping lightly on the service bell. She hoped the proprietor could provide some answers to her questions or at least give her a tour. A tour of the hotel would give her a better understanding of what had happened here so long ago. It might even lead to some overlooked clues. What role will the hotel play in this story? ① As the backdrop for the mystery, it will be what Jan must navigate to find answers. ② The hotel gives a feeling of peace and tranquility and will help put Jan at ease. ③ Because it is an old hotel, it will reinforce a theme about the passage of time.	"You remember that old sheepdog Sammy we had when we were kids? He followed us wherever we went: up the hill, down to the creek, over to the ball field. He even hid in the travel trailer and went camping with us one time, remember? It's like he thought it was his job to herd us kids, and watch over us. They don't make them like that anymore." What theme is revealed though the character's speech? ① triumph over adversity ② taking things in stride ③ fond memories of youth

Sample items

Domain	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Understanding Author's Craft Covers the understanding and analysis of an author's use of language and literary devices to create certain effects.	The storm raged outside our window as my sister and I huddled together telling stories. My sister had reached the scariest part of her story when the wind rattled the windows. We both stopped and held our breath. The only light came from a streetlight shining through the window. We heard thunder rumbling in the distance. What gives the passage an eerie mood? ① the idea that the sister is telling a scary story **② words such as *huddled*, *only light*, and *rumbling*** [selected] ③ a streetlight shining through the window	As she warmed up, Iris observed the large crowd in the concert hall. She knew her violin was one reason they were in attendance. Leah's viola was the other. Leah was warming up too. Iris thought the two of them were probably quite similar, both disciplined. Still, Iris thought, nothing would stop her from doing all she could to win the music competition. Iris had no idea her attitude would be transformed completely before the day's end. The last sentence of the passage is an example of _____. ① repetition ② flashback **③ foreshadowing** [selected]	Kana said her stack of library books was <u>nearly a mile high</u>. Kana probably said this to explain that she _____. **① has many books to read** [selected] ② is trying to break a world record ③ needs to visit the library
Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text Covers the recognition, analysis, and evaluation of argument in persuasive, editorial, and academic writing.	Rachel and Selena, the well-known cooking team, recommend Copper Made pots and pans. Rachel and Selena say, "Copper Made pots and pans distribute heat evenly, making every meal a success." So take the seasoned advice of Rachel and Selena: Try Copper Made. Which persuasive method is used in the passage? ① urgency: making you feel you need to act quickly or you'll miss out ② plain folks appeal: saying that people just like you use the product **③ testimonial: people who use the product tell why they like it** [selected]	The school should start a publishing club. I personally already make great zines and comic books. Some people, however, need plenty of help. We have clubs for people who play sports, play chess, or paint. There is no club for people who want to learn how to publish their own work. Publishing could even become a career for students someday. Please add the publishing club soon. Which is the strongest reason for starting a publishing club? **① Publishing could even become a career for students someday.** [selected] ② We have clubs for people who play sports, play chess, or paint. ③ I personally already make great zines and comic books.	Be prepared to laugh your socks off at this year's fabulous school show. It is a complete giggle fest. Our excellent script is stocked full of genuine belly laughs. Our performers deliver each joke with professional ease. The jokes fly as fast as the time. When the show reaches the curtain call, you'll be gasping with laughter as you're shouting for more. What does the paragraph use to convince people to go to the show? ① It uses the bandwagon technique to convince readers everyone else likes it. ② It includes the opinion of an expert who loved the show. **③ It uses loaded words like *fabulous*, *excellent*, and *professional*.** [selected]

Sample items

Domain	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Word Knowledge and Skills Covers knowledge and understanding of vocabulary as well as the ability to use the strategies.	In the _aftermath_ of Friday's loss, the coach decided to hold extra practices. What is the connotation of _aftermath_ rather than the denotation? ① The team must face the consequences of losing. ② The extra practices are a result of Friday's loss. **③ Friday's loss was especially devastating.**	She was tired of all the infighting and _partisan_ politics. The word _partisan_ comes from a Latin word meaning "part." What does _partisan_ mean? ① striving to raise one's social status by attending parties ② organizing individuals into parties that repesent different views **③ having firm or blind adherance to a party, cause, or faction**	He responded to the question with the _alacrity_ of a puppy running to greet someone at the door. What is _alacrity_? **① cheerful readiness** ② utter indifference ③ boundless patience
Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning Covers strategies such as self-monitoring, making predictions, drawing conclusions, and using organizational structure of text to improve understanding.	Which of the following might make a newspaper article seem more important? ① a beautiful font style **② a very large headline** ③ a caption with a picture	As more and more personal music devices, including phones, enter the market, students are in greater danger of hearing loss. These devices are listened to through earphones that sit directly in the ears, and users turn the volume up to block out other sounds. Loud noise damages tiny cells in the inner ear and loss of these cells leads to loss of hearing. It is generally agreed that 65 to 70 decibels is safe, as this is about the same volume as normal conversation. However, one experiment found that many music devices were capable of producing sound at nearly 120 decibels. Which statement is a fact rather than an assertion? **① Loud noise damages tiny hair cells in the inner ear and loss of these cells leads to loss of hearing.** ② As more and more personal music devices, including phones, enter the market, students are in greater danger of hearing loss. ③ These devices are listened to through earphones that sit directly in the ears, and users turn the volume up to block out other sounds.	Well, I for one am thrilled with the idea of summer school. In fact, all students should be required to attend classes over the summer. What else would high school students be doing? Playing in the sun? We're not children! Why would we want to do anything but study during the last carefree days of youth? What conclusion can you draw about the author's true message? **① The questions the author asks are all ironic. The author believes students should be having fun over the summer.** ② The author firmly believes that summer school is a good choice and that all students should attend. ③ The author thinks that students should strive for a careful balance between studying and having fun.
Analyzing Literary Text Covers the exploration of plot, setting, character, theme, and point of view in literary text, as well as the characteristics of different genres.	Derek sat on the dusty ground where the bandits had left him. They had taken his horse, his provisions, and his precious canteen of water. What they weren't able to take, however, was his knowledge of survival in the harsh desert climate. He pulled himself to his feet and picked up his crumpled hat. The first thing he'd do was find some shade. After the sun set, he'd head out in search of water. Despite his misfortune, and despite the grueling challenge ahead, Derek had never felt more keenly alive. What archetype does the author draw on to develop Derek's character? **① the rugged individualist** ② the classical hero on a quest ③ the trickster in disguise	That was the last of the grueling final exams, and Nora knew she had passed. High school was going to be ancient history, and she would be heading to college in the fall. She still hadn't decided what she would study yet. Would it be biology, anthropology, accounting? There were so many paths to choose from, it could be a bit overwhelming. However, she didn't have to choose yet; she had time. Right now, she had to concentrate on getting ready for the graduation activities and on preparing her speech. What archetypal plot structure is employed here? **① coming of age** ② generational conflict ③ the hero's journey	I'm writing to apologize for all the havoc I raised in your den the other evening. I have enclosed a check to compensate you for all the trouble I caused. You'll find the amount I've included to repair Baby Bear's chair to be too much. The amount I've included for replacing your porridge and taking your bedding to the cleaner is too little. Taken together, however, I trust you'll find the reimbursement amount to be just right. There's nothing quite as satisfying as a happy medium, wouldn't you agree? Sincerely, Goldilocks This passage is intended as _____. ① an allegorical story to teach a moral ② an example of literary nonfiction **③ a parody of a traditional story**

Sample items

RENAISSANCE Star Reading®

Domain	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Understanding Author's Craft Covers the understanding and analysis of an author's use of language and literary devices to create certain effects.	Devorah thought the candidate's speech would never end. The audience would spend the rest of their lives in this auditorium. She was glad there was a snack bar. The character uses sarcasm to express _____. ① her impatience over the length of the speech ② her dedication to the political ideas expressed in the speech ③ her belief that the candidate has no chance to win	Though it was a peaceful day at sea, the waves still rose like mountains around Dominique's little boat. These mountains could not be climbed, could not be tamed, and they revealed nothing about what lay below. No, the sea held secrets thought lost forever in its depths. Shipwrecks, lost treasures, lost stories lay discarded, abandoned for generations on its floor. Dominique and her team sought to reveal these secrets to the world through the lens of a camera. What does the imagery in the passage convey about the sea? ① The sea is peaceful and calm. ② The sea is powerful and mysterious. ③ The sea is teeming with forms of life.	*Synecdoche* is a figure of speech in which a part of something is used to mean the whole or, conversely, the whole for the part. One example would be if someone referred to her car as her wheels. Which is another example of synecdoche? ① The captain called, "All hands on deck." ② The pen is mightier than the sword. ③ The dawn raised her rosy red fingers.
Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text Covers the recognition, analysis, and evaluation of argument in persuasive, editorial, and academic writing.	I believe we must nurture our school like a garden, which needs sunlight, water, and nutrients. The sunlight is our school environment, and we must foster an environment conducive to learning. The water is our budget, what keeps programs flowing. And nutrients come from the curriculum so students can grow richer in knowledge every day. What method of argument is used in the passage? ① argument by analogy ② argument by authority ③ argument by emotion	The "fear of power" has been a theme throughout American history. Checks and balances were written into the U.S. Constitution in order to guard against abuse of power. Madison and the other Federalists wrote about the danger of factions gaining inordinate amounts of power in government. Yet, are we not possibly still the most powerful nation on Earth? How does our "fear of power" translate in the context of our role in the world? In this first paragraph of an essay, what possible contradiction is the author introducing? ① that between being powerful abroad but weak at home ② that between knowing when to use power and when to wait ③ that between the fear of power and the use of power	In conclusion, lowering the speed limit is the only viable solution to the dilemma of ever-increasing gasoline prices. The crisis is not that complicated—it is merely a question of supply and demand. Lower speed limits result in better gas mileage. Better gas mileage lowers overall consumption rates, thereby decreasing demand. With less demand, supply will increase and prices will drop. Other solutions, like public transportation and alternative fuel sources, have been tried and people just don't go for them. It's time to take the pedal off the metal and solve the problem of high gasoline prices once and for all. What aspect of this conclusion limits the overall success of the argument? ① It oversimplifies the problem and exaggerates the solution. ② It offers a solution that wouldn't contribute to solving the problem. ③ It addresses a problem that isn't of interest to most people.

RENAISSANCE®