



FAST Assessment Benchmarks

Practice Workbook



Reading

Student's Name: _____

Made for Focus FAST Benchmark Reading Practice

★ Third–Fifth Grade Promotion ★

RULES OF FAST TEST

1



Read the title.
(*never skip the title*)

2



Read Title 1 and Title 2 carefully.

3



Read Passage 1.
Answer **ONLY** the questions that belong to Passage 1.

4



Read Passage 2.
Answer **ONLY** the questions that belong to Passage 2.

5



When answering questions,
always find **proof in the text.**

6



Think about what the author wants you to notice in the text.
Focus on:
• what is important • what the author is showing • what the question is really asking

7



CHECK before you finish:
✓ reread your answers
✓ check evidence in the text
✓ make sure each answer matches the passage

Remember: The FAST Test is not only about reading.
It checks how well you can:



navigate
the text



find information
quickly



understand what
is important



use evidence,
not guessing

TASK CARDS



TEXT #1

Puss in Boots By Hans Christian Andersen

There were once three sons. Their father left each of them a gift. The oldest got the mill. The second received the donkey. The youngest was given nothing but the cat. He was quite unhappy. He felt his brothers received more than him. What would he do with the cat? The cat heard what he said. He told the son not to worry. He asked for a bag and a pair of boots. Then he said he would show him just how valuable he was.



Part A: What is the main message in the story?

- A People should be happy with what they get.
- B People should share with their family.
- C People need to work hard in life.

Part B: What is the author's purpose?

- A To Persuade
- B To Inform
- C To Entertain

TEXT #2

Habitat By Thunderbolt Kids

There are many kinds of habitats. This is where plants and animals live. Some habitats are hot and dry. Some animals and plants live in forests or caves. In South Africa, there are many forest areas. There used to be many wild elephants. But today, there are hardly any left. Their forest habitat is smaller in size. This is because of humans moving in.



Which is the best summary?

- A Plants and animals need a certain habitat to live.
- B Plants and animals live in habitats. Sometimes humans can hurt the habitat.
- C There are many habitats. Elephants live in forests. But humans are hurting their habitat.
- D There are many kinds of habitats. For example, hot, dry, forest or caves.

TEXT #3

Treasure Island

I remember him as if it were yesterday. He came stomping to the inn door. His sea chest following behind him in a wagon. He was a tall, strong, nut-brown man. His long hair fell over the shoulder of his blue coat. His hands were dirty and scarred. There was a sword cut across one cheek. I remember him looking around the room and whistling to himself. He did so and started singing an old sea song.



We can infer that the man is –

- A a pirate
- B his father
- C looking for trouble
- D a good singer

TASK CARDS



TEXT #4

The Sifaka By Science 4 Kids

The Sifaka is a very rare lemur. It is also called the "ghost of the forest." They live in Madagascar. All the species are threatened because of habitat destruction. It doesn't help that they only have babies every two years. The Sifaka are extremely social and eat mostly leaves.



What important fact is the author trying to convey about the Sifaka?

- A The Sifaka is a lemur.
- B The Sifaka is endangered.
- C The Sifaka is rare.
- D The Sifaka is social.

TEXT #5

The Midnight Hike

Late one evening at Camp Greenwood, a group of fourth graders embarked on a midnight hike, led by their fearless guide, Mr. Jackson. As they trekked through the dense forest under the silver glow of the moon, they encountered various nocturnal creatures and listened to the symphony of crickets. The adventure turned thrilling when they thought they saw the shadow of the legendary Greenwood Beast. However, it turned out to be a friendly deer, which taught them about the mysteries and beauty of the forest at night.



Part A: How does the setting contribute to the plot of the story?

- A The forest provides a home for the Greenwood Beast.
- B The moonlight makes it easier for the kids to see at night.
- C The nighttime setting adds mystery and excitement to the hike.
- D The camp is a place where no adventures happen.

Part B: Which detail from the paragraph best supports your answer to Part A?

- A "trekked through the dense forest under the silver glow of the moon"
- B "legendary Greenwood Beast"
- C "friendly deer, which taught them"
- D "symphony of crickets"

TEXT #6

Black Beauty By Anna Sewell

The first place that I can well remember was a large pleasant meadow with a pond of clear water in it. Some shady trees leaned over it, and rushes and water-lilies grew at the deep end. Over the hedge on one side we looked into a plowed field, and on the other we looked over a gate at our master's house, which stood by the roadside. At the top of the meadow was a grove of fir trees, and at the bottom a running brook overhung by a steep bank.



Part A: Why did the author include this part?

- A To describe where the narrator lives
- B To reveal what is in the fields
- C To tell the reader about the narrator

Part B: What is the author's purpose?

- A To Persuade
- B To Inform
- C To Entertain

TASK CARDS



TEXT #1

Sleeping Beauty in the Woods By Hans Christian Andersen

At last, the Queen had a daughter. This daughter had seven godmothers. They were all the fairies they could find in the whole kingdom. Every one of the fairies offered her a gift. This was the custom of fairies in those days. Everyone came to the palace, where a great feast was prepared for the fairies. There was a wonderful table. It was covered with gold. On top was golden silverware. All were made of pure gold with diamonds and rubies. But as they were all sitting at the table, they saw a very old fairy enter the hall. She had not been invited. For more than fifty years, she had been alone. The King ordered her a place at the table. But he could not give her golden silverware. He only made seven sets for the seven fairies. The old fairy was upset by this and muttered to herself.



What is the best summary of the story?

- A When the princess was born, all the known fairies were invited to the palace. However, one was forgotten. She was upset with the king.
- B The Queen took a long time to have a princess. When she finally arrived, they had a feast and invited all the fairies.
- C All the fairies came to see the new princess and offered her gifts. But one old fairy was not invited.
- D Once the princess was born, the old forgotten fairy came to the palace. However, she was upset she was not invited.

TEXT #8

Birds Need You By Thunderbolt Kids

Many of the trees in your town have been chopped down to make space for homes and other buildings. The birds that used to make their nests in the trees now have nowhere to lay their eggs safely! There are many more rats, mice, and other pests in the city because there are fewer and fewer birds to catch them! This is because many birds left to find safe places to build their nests and raise their chicks. Some of the birds that stayed behind tried to make nests on rooftops, but the people did not like the mess they made on their buildings and destroyed the nests. Other birds tried to build their nests on tall radio and television towers. But then the people could not get their televisions or radios to work properly, so they also broke their nests and chased the birds away. The people are complaining about all the pests that are in the city, and the birds want to come back but do not have a safe place to build nests. They need your help!



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Part B: Which detail from the paragraph best supports your answer to Part A?

- A "trekked through the dense forest under the silver glow of the moon"
- B "legendary Greenwood Beast"
- C "friendly deer, which taught them"
- D "symphony of crickets"

TEXT #9

The Echidnas By Science 4 Kids

Echidnas are small mammals. Sometimes they are called spiny anteaters. They are covered with rough hair and spines. Echidna and platypus are the only egg-laying mammals. They have a long lifespan. In fact, they can live for 50 years. They are usually **solitary** animals. They like to live alone.



Part A: What makes the Echidnas unique?

- A They are one of the only egg-laying mammals.
- B They can live a long time.
- C They are anteaters.
- D They like to live alone.

Part B: What does the word solitary mean?

- A living alone
- B living in large groups
- C living long

TASK CARDS



TEXT #10

A Mysterious Letter by The Little Ladybua Shop

Plop! The mailman dropped the Brenamen's mail into the mail slot. "I got it!" yelled Anthony, running to the front door and scooping up the pile of mail. "Bills, advertisements, more bills, bills.." he muttered as he **sifted** through the envelopes while walking down the hall. All of a sudden, he stopped and stared. His name was handwritten in curly red cursive writing on the envelope. "I never get mail," he thought to himself, confused. Anthony ran to the kitchen where his mother was enjoying a cup of coffee. "Mom, I got a letter!" "Oh really?" she asked, setting down her newspaper. "Who's it from?" "I don't know," said Anthony. "There's no return address, but it's handwritten so it's not just an advertisement or something"



What does the word sifted mean?

- A tore open
- B opened
- C looked through

TEXT #11

Whale Watching

Observing some of nature's largest animals can be **thrilling**, so it's important to stay prepared. First, be sure to check the weather. Rough seas can be hazardous and cause sea sickness. Second, check the route the boat company takes prior to your trip to see which whales they've sighted. You wouldn't want to spend money on a whale watch and not spot any whales! Third, be prepared for sea sickness. Taking a motion sickness medication before **boarding** the boat may help. Finally, make sure your camera is fully charged for pictures. Enjoy your whale watch!



What does the word "thrilling" means as it is used in the passage?

- A dull
- B exciting
- C boring

What does the word "boarding" means?

- A entering
- B exiting
- C leaving

TEXT #12

Camping Under the Stars

Beneath a sky so vast and clear,
We pitch our tents and gather near.
The campfire's glow, our only light,
As stories fill the air tonight.
Each star above, a tale it tells,
Of ancient times and distant dells.
In this great park, we're merely guests,
Beneath the stars, we find our rest.



Part A: What does the poem suggest about the relationship between humans and nature?

- A Nature is a backdrop for human activities.
- B Humans are temporary visitors in the vastness of nature.
- C The stars guide human actions and decisions.
- D Human presence is essential to the vitality of nature.

Part B: Which lines from the poem best support your answer to Part A?

- A "Beneath a sky so vast and clear,"
- B "We pitch our tents and gather near."
- C "Each star above, a tale it tells,"
- D "In this great park, we're merely guests,"

ANSWER KEY

#	Answer
1	Part A: A Part B: C
2	C
3	A
4	B
5	Part A: C Part B: A
6	Part A: B Part B: C
7	A
8	Part A: C Part B: A
9	Part A: A Part B: A
10	C
11	Part A: B Part B: A
12	Part A: B Part B: D

FULL TEXT PRACTICE

TEXT #1



A Diary of a Young Girl: Anne Frank

I'm writing in a diary, and it feels strange because I've never done it before. I'm only thirteen, and I don't know if anyone will care about what a kid like me writes. But I really want to write and share my thoughts.

I once heard that "paper has more patience than people," and I thought about it when I was feeling sad and sitting at home. I wondered whether to go out or stay in. In the end, I stayed and thought about this diary. I don't plan to let anyone read it unless I find a real friend, which might not happen.

Now, the main reason I'm writing is because I don't have a true friend. I know it might sound strange because I have family, loving parents, a sister, and about thirty people I can call friends. I also have admirers who think I'm great. But we don't talk about deeper stuff, and it's hard to get closer to them. Maybe it's because I don't feel comfortable sharing my feelings. So, I'm starting this diary.

I want this diary to be my friend, and I'll call it Kitty. I won't write facts like most people do. I want to make Kitty my true friend in my imagination.

Let me tell you a little about my life. My father and mother got married when he was thirty-six, and she was twenty-five. My sister Margot was born in Germany in 1926, and I was born in 1929. I lived in Frankfurt until I was four. We're Jewish, and in 1933, my father moved to Holland to work at a company that makes jam. My mother, Margot, and I joined him later.

Life became difficult after 1940 when the war began. The Germans took over, and they made things hard for us with many rules. We had to wear a yellow star, couldn't ride bikes, and had to shop at certain times. We couldn't go to the movies, swim, or participate in many activities. Life was tough, but we tried to keep going.



FULL TEXT PRACTICE

TEXT QUESTIONS



1. This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A: What can the reader conclude about Anne?

- A.** She will undergo more hard times.
- B.** She is unsure about writing in a diary.
- C.** She eventually will make more friends.
- D.** She will move back to Germany without her family.

Part B: Which details from the diary support the answer in Part A?

(Select TWO correct answers.)

- A.** *my father moved to Holland.* (paragraph 5)
- B.** *My mother, Margot, and I joined him later.* (paragraph 5)
- C.** *The Germans took over, and they made things hard for us with many rules.* (paragraph 6)
- D.** *Life was tough, but we tried to keep going.* (paragraph 6)

2. What is the most likely reason the author includes an anecdote or short story about naming the diary Kitty?

(paragraph 4)

- A.** To explain how she will use the diary to help her get a true friend
- B.** To explain how she will write in her diary like it is to a true friend
- C.** To show how she has a hard time making friends at school
- D.** To show how she wanted to be different from all the other diaries

FULL TEXT PRACTICE

TEXT QUESTIONS



3. What does Anne most likely believe about writing in a diary?

- A.** It will help in winning the war.
- B.** It will help people in the future.
- C.** It will fill something missing in her life.
- D.** It will give her new friends.

4. Which sentence best supports the reason why Anne is writing in a diary?

- A.** *I'm writing in a diary* (paragraph 1)
- B.** *I've never done it before* (paragraph 1)
- C.** *I don't plan to let anyone read it* (paragraph 2)
- D.** *I don't have a true friend* (paragraph 3)

5. What key idea is supported by the details in the diary?

- A.** Anne did not have any friends and was lonely.
- B.** Anne kept a diary of her life and how it changed with the war.
- C.** Anne had a hard life due to many laws.
- D.** Anne did not normally write in a diary but started one anyway.

FULL TEXT PRACTICE

TEXT QUESTIONS



6. How does the author organize paragraphs 5 and 6?

- A.** By using chronological order
- B.** By using order of importance
- C.** By compare and contrast
- D.** By using cause and effect

7. Which phrase from paragraph 3 helps the reader understand the meaning of the word *admires*?

- A.** I can call friends
- B.** Who think I'm great
- C.** We don't talk
- D.** Deeper stuff

8. What point of view does the author use in the diary?

- A.** Third person, narrated by Kitty
- B.** First person, narrated by the sister
- C.** First person, narrated by Anne
- D.** Third person, narrated by an outside observer

ANSWER KEY

#	Answer
1	Part A: A Part B: C&D
2	B
3	C
4	D
5	B
6	A
7	B
8	C

FULL TEXT PRACTICE

TEXT #2



We Need Rainforests

Forests are super important because they're home to lots of plants and animals. Plus, they make the oxygen we need to live. Rainforests are extra special. They're big jungles in places like Asia, Africa, and America. The Amazon rainforest in South America is the most famous one.



The Amazon is like the "lungs of the Earth." This is because it's the biggest and helps the planet get oxygen. It also stops floods and droughts. All while also taking in a lot of carbon dioxide. This forest is home to tons of plants, animals, and people who live there.

But people are doing things that hurt the rainforests. *Deforestation* is when we cut down lots of trees. It's become a big problem. We're losing these important forests because people want space for cows and farms or to get wood and minerals.

Climate change is making things even worse. The Amazon is disappearing. We need to keep these forests safe because they are important to our future!

Remember, when you are shopping, check where items are from. Try to pick things that are good for the environment.

FULL TEXT PRACTICE

TEXT #3



Why is Climate Changing?

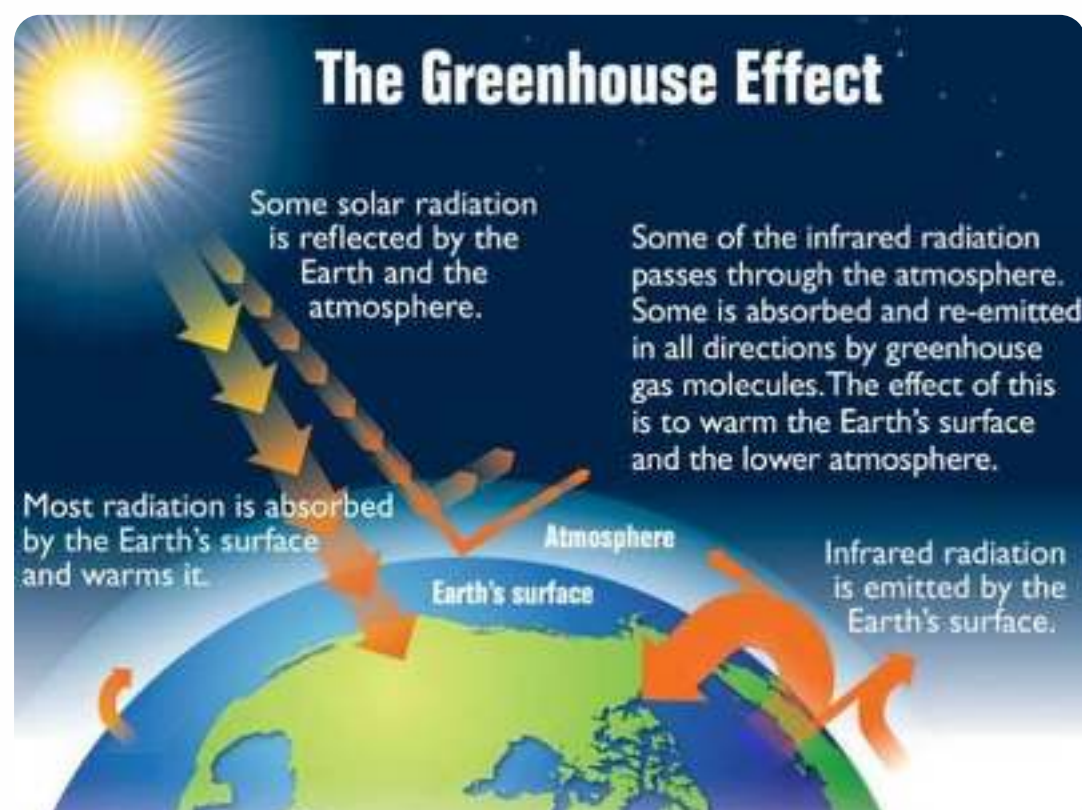
The weather on Earth is always changing, even if it's hard to see. Right now, people are talking about climate change, which means the Earth is getting warmer. This happens because of gases that trap heat in the air. We call them greenhouse gases, and they come from burning things like coal, oil, and gas, or other things people do.



When the Earth gets warmer, things start to change a lot. Ice on big mountains melts, and there are more storms and disasters.

In the past, the Earth's climate changed, but now it's happening faster because of what people are doing. Fossil fuels, like coal and gas, are the big problem. When we use them for energy, they make a gas called carbon dioxide, which traps heat.

Greenhouse gases are good in the right amount. They keep our planet warm so we can live. But now, people are making too many of these gases, and the Earth is getting too warm. This is bad for the environment, weather, and animals and where they live. We need to be careful and find better ways to live so we don't hurt our home.



FULL TEXT PRACTICE

TEXT QUESTIONS



1. Which detail from “We Need Rainforests” shows a main claim made by the author?

- A. *Forests are super important*
- B. *They make the oxygen we need to live.*
- C. *Rainforests are extra special.*
- D. *The Amazon rainforest in South America is the most famous one.*

2. BOTH the author of “We Need Rainforests” and the author of “Why is Climate Changing” -

- A. explain the causes of climate change
- B. discuss how humans are putting trash on the Earth
- C. address the idea of cutting down forests
- D. describe how people can hurt the Earth

3. What does deforestation mean as it is used in “We Need Rainforests” paragraph 3?

- A. to stop forests from growing
- B. to cut down one tree in the forest
- C. cutting down a large area of trees
- D. hurting land and trees

FULL TEXT PRACTICE

TEXT QUESTIONS



4. What is the most likely reason the author of “Why is Climate Changing” included the second image of the factory?

- A. To help the reader see the carbon dioxide being put into the air
- B. To help the reader understand the effects of carbon dioxide in the air
- C. To help the reader see how greenhouse gasses are warming the Earth
- D. To help the reader know that factories are the main problem

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

Part A: What does the author of “Why is Climate Changing” most likely believe?

- A. Humans need to cut back on their use of fossil fuels.
- B. If we work together, we can fix the Earth’s climate.
- C. Climate change is a new issue in modern times.
- D. Without change, the Earth will become unlivable

Part B: Which detail from “Why is Climate Changing” paragraph 3 best supports the answer in Part A?

- A. *it's happening faster*
- B. *Fossil fuels, like coal and gas*
- C. *we use them for energy*
- D. *which traps heat*

FULL TEXT PRACTICE

TEXT QUESTIONS



6. Why does the author compare the Amazon to lungs in “We Need Rainforests” paragraph 2?
(select TWO correct answers)

- A. The Amazon is connected to the Earth
- B. The Amazon is important to the health of Earth.
- C. The Amazon is able to breathe.
- D. The Amazon makes oxygen.

7. With which statement would BOTH the authors agree?

- A. People are putting trash on the Earth.
- B. People are trying to make changes.
- C. People are hurting the Earth.
- D. People need to cut back on fuel.

8. How is the author’s perspective in “We Need Rainforest” DIFFERENT from the author’s in “Why is Climate Changing?”

- A. In “We Need Rainforest” the author feels people help the Earth
- B. In “We Need Rainforest” the author feels greenhouse gases are bad
- C. In “We Need Rainforest” the author feels animals are hurting the Earth
- D. In “We Need Rainforest” the author feels cutting down trees is hurting the Earth

ANSWER KEY

#	Answer
1	B
2	D
3	C
4	A
5	Part A: A Part B: C
6	B & D
7	C
8	D