

# Practice Test

## English Language Arts Reading Comprehension

**GRADE 5**

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Student Name

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School Name

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District Name



Massachusetts Department of  
**ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY  
EDUCATION**

This is a practice test. Your responses to practice test questions must be recorded on your Practice Test Answer Document.

Mark only one answer for each multiple-choice question. If you are not sure of the answer, choose the answer you think is best.

## **HOW TO ANSWER OPEN-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

- **READ** the question carefully.
- **PLAN** your answer.
- **FIND** details from the selection to support your answer.

# Reading Comprehension

## DIRECTIONS

This practice test contains one reading selection with two multiple-choice questions and one open-response question. Mark your answers to these questions in the spaces provided on page 6 of your Practice Test Answer Document.

*This selection is from Russell Freedman’s biography titled The Wright Brothers. Amos Root was one of the first people ever to see someone flying an airplane in controlled flight, which means that the pilot was steering the plane. Read the selection and then answer the questions that follow.*

## What Amos Root Saw

*by Russell Freedman*

- 1 No one had ever seen what Amos Root saw on that September afternoon in 1904. Standing in a cow pasture near Dayton, Ohio, he looked up and watched a flying machine circle in the sky above him. He could see the bold pilot lying facedown on the lower wing, staring straight ahead as he steered the craft to a landing in the grass.
- 2 The pilot was Wilbur Wright. He and his brother Orville had built the machine themselves in the workroom of their bicycle shop. Now they were testing it out at a farmer’s field called Huffman Prairie.
- 3 Amos Root had come all the way down from Medina, Ohio, where he ran a beekeepers’ supply house.<sup>1</sup> For weeks he had heard rumors about the Wright brothers’ flying machine, and being a curious fellow, he wanted to investigate this miracle for himself. So he packed a bag, climbed into his automobile, and drove nearly 200 miles to Dayton—a very long trip at a time when automobiles were still called “horseless carriages.”
- 4 He was lucky enough to be on hand when Wilbur Wright took off and flew once around Huffman Prairie—the first circling flight ever made by an airplane. The flight lasted 1 minute 36 seconds.
- 5 Back home in Medina, Root wrote history’s earliest eyewitness account of an airplane in controlled flight. His article appeared in the January 1, 1905, issue of *Gleanings in Bee Culture*, a magazine he published for customers of his supply house.
- 6 “Dear friends,” he wrote, “I have a wonderful story to tell you—a story that, in some respects, outrivals the Arabian Nights fables.” He reported that “two minister’s boys who love machinery, and who are interested in the modern developments of science and art . . . began studying the flights of birds and insects. From this they turned their attention to what has been done in the way of enabling men to fly. . . . This work, mind you, was all new. Nobody living could give them any advice. It was like exploring a new and unknown domain.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *beekeepers’ supply house* — a business that sells supplies and materials to people who raise bees

<sup>2</sup> *domain* — a field of knowledge or interest

# Reading Comprehension

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- 7 Root congratulated himself on being the first to see an airplane “turn the corner and come back to the starting point.” Then he described his reactions to that historic flight:
- 8 “The machine is held until ready to start by a sort of trap to be sprung when all is ready; then with a tremendous flapping and snapping of the four-cylinder engine, the huge machine springs aloft. When it first turned that circle, and came near the starting-point, I was right in front of it; and I said then, and I believe still, it was . . . the grandest sight of my life. Imagine a locomotive that has left its track and is climbing up in the air right toward you—a locomotive without any wheels, we will say, but with white wings instead . . . coming right toward you with a tremendous flap of its propellers, and you will have something like what I saw. The younger brother bade<sup>3</sup> me move to one side for fear it might come down suddenly; but I tell you friends, the sensation one feels in such a crisis is something hard to describe.”
- 9 Root compared the Wright brothers to another explorer of the unknown, Christopher Columbus: “When Columbus discovered America he did not know what the outcome would be, and no one at that time knew. . . . In a like manner these two brothers have probably not even a faint glimpse of what their discovery is going to bring to the children of men.”

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<sup>3</sup> *bade* — asked

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- 1 According to the selection, why did Amos Root travel to Dayton, Ohio?
- A. He followed an airplane in flight.
  - B. He went to a beekeepers' meeting.
  - C. He was invited to go there by the Wright brothers.
  - D. He had heard stories about the Wright brothers' airplane.

- 2 Read the sentence from paragraph 5 in the box below.

Back home in Medina, Root wrote history's earliest eyewitness account of an airplane in controlled flight.

What does the phrase *eyewitness account* mean?

- A. an account of an event actually observed by the person
- B. an account of an event that is difficult to describe
- C. an account of an event that happens every day
- D. an account of an event written by an inventor

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Question 3 is an open-response question.

- Read the question carefully.
- Explain your answer.
- Add supporting details.
- Double-check your work.

Write your answer to question 3 in the space provided on page 6 of your Practice Test Answer Document.

- 3 Based on the selection, explain how Amos Root felt about seeing Wilbur Wright's flight. Support your answer with important details from the selection.

**MASSACHUSETTS COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM**

**Grade 5 English Language Arts**

**Practice Test Answer Document**

<p>School Name: _____</p> <p>District Name: _____</p> <p>Last Name of Student: _____</p> <p>First Name of Student: _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Marking Instructions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use a No. 2 pencil only.</li><li>• Do not use ink, ballpoint, or felt tip pens.</li><li>• Make solid marks that fill the circles completely.</li><li>• Erase cleanly any marks you wish to change.</li><li>• Make no stray marks on this form.</li><li>• Do not fold, tear, or mutilate this form.</li></ul>
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**NO TEST MATERIAL  
ON THIS PAGE**

