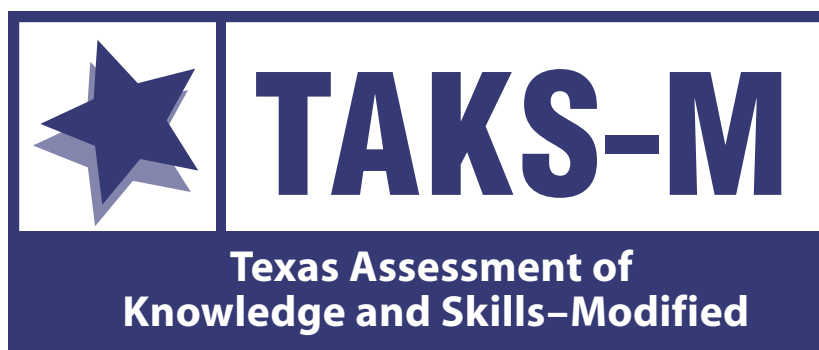


STUDENT NAME _____



**GRADE 5
READING**

Administered March 2009

READING



Heather and the Baby Kangaroo

Katie flies to Atlanta, Georgia, for her summer vacation. She stays with her father and his family. She finds out that her stepsister Heather volunteers, or works for free, at the Kangaroo Center. Katie goes with Heather to the center to help care for a baby kangaroo named Zach. Read Katie's story to find out what happens when Zach becomes sick. Then answer the questions that follow.

Heather and the Baby Kangaroo

- 1 "We are about to land the plane," the pilot said. This was my first trip to my father's new house. He lives with my stepmother and my stepsister Heather.
- 2 I walked into the airport. I saw my father, my stepmother, and Heather. "What does she have on her head now?" I said. "Why can't she just be like everyone else?" Heather had on a cowboy hat. It looked strange on her.
- 3 Next we drove to Dad's house. We went by tall buildings. I was not listening as Dad talked to me. Then I heard him say, "Katie, it would be interesting for you to go along with Heather."
- 4 I did not know what Dad was talking about. My face turned red. I tried to hide that I had not been listening. Soon I knew what Dad was talking about. I could not believe Heather worked for free as a volunteer.
- 5 Heather asked, "Do you want to work with me today?"
- 6 "O.K.," I said. I was not happy, but I smiled anyway.

- 1** Why does Katie's father suggest that Katie go with Heather to do volunteer work?
- A** He wants her to earn money.
 - B** He knows that Heather will not work there without her.
 - C** He believes she might like the experience with Heather.

2 Why does Katie go on a trip?

- F** She wants to learn new things about her stepmother and stepsister.
- G** She wants to see tall buildings.
- H** She wants to visit her father and his family at their new home.

- 7 Later that day we drove to the place where Heather did volunteer work. I saw a sign that read "Kangaroo Center."
- 8 Dad said, "The Kangaroo Center was started by people who liked kangaroos. Now they have more than 200 kangaroos."
- 9 Heather and I got out of the van. She said that she had been feeding a baby kangaroo. "A baby kangaroo stays in its mother's pouch until it is about nine months old. But this baby kangaroo lost his mother when he was just four months old. His name is Zach. He has to be given a bottle of milk four times a day."
- 10 We walked into the center. I could not believe Heather would take the time to feed a baby kangaroo. This was not like Heather. She always started something new but never finished it.
- 11 A woman came up to us. Heather said, "Hi, Britt. This is my stepsister Katie. She will work with me this summer."
- 12 "Hi, Katie. It is nice to have you here," Britt said. "But I have some bad news, Heather. Your baby kangaroo Zach is not doing well."
- 13 "What is wrong?" Heather asked in an upset voice. "He was fine when I was here Tuesday."
- 14 "We do not know," Britt said. "We are waiting for the doctor."
- 15 "Can I see him, please?" Heather asked, almost begging.
- 16 We went with Britt to a room for sick kangaroos. Zach was the only kangaroo there. He looked very small and sick.

3 Which sentence from the story best shows that Heather is worried about Zach?

- A** *Later that day we drove to the place where Heather did volunteer work.*
- B** *I could not believe Heather would take the time to feed a baby kangaroo.*
- C** *"Can I see him, please?" Heather asked, almost begging.*

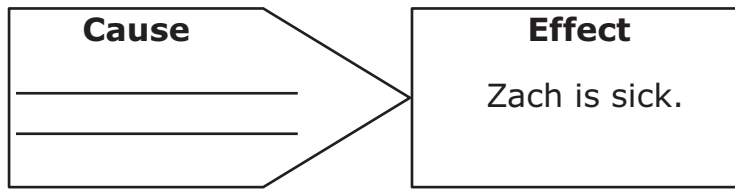
4 What upsets Heather when she talks to Britt?

- F** Heather hears bad news about Zach.
- G** Heather finds out that the doctor is at the center.
- H** Heather thinks Britt will not let Katie see Zach.

- 17 When the doctor came into the room, he said, "Is this the sick kangaroo?"
- 18 "This is the doctor," Heather said to Katie. "I hope he can help Zach."
- 19 The doctor looked at Zach. He said, "Tell me about Zach's milk. How is it mixed? How many times each day is he being fed?"
- 20 Britt said, "We mix the milk with water. Zach is fed four times a day."
- 21 "That may be the problem," the doctor said. "A baby kangaroo that is still in its mother's pouch eats all day long. It drinks a little milk many times a day. When a baby kangaroo is fed with a bottle, it gets too much milk at one time. That is not good for a baby kangaroo."
- 22 "What do we need to do?" Heather asked. I was surprised to see how upset she was.
- 23 The doctor said, "You will have to feed him smaller quantities of milk. Also, you will have to feed him more than four times a day. Zach should be fine in a few days."
- 24 "Do you hear that, Zach?" Heather asked. "You are going to be just fine."
- 25 I watched Heather pet Zach. I think one day she might become a doctor who takes care of animals. With Heather, you never know what she will do next. But I saw the way she took care of Zach. This may be one thing she does for the rest of her life.



5 Look at the information below.



Which of these belongs on the blank lines?

- A Zach is fed too much milk at one time.
- B Zach is held by people too much.
- C Zach gets hungry between feedings.

6 What are paragraphs 19 through 23 mostly about?

- F How a baby kangaroo eats in its mother's pouch
- G How the doctor finds out what is wrong with Zach
- H What is in the milk used to bottle-feed baby kangaroos

7 What does the word quantities mean in paragraph 23?

- A Ways
- B Problems
- C Amounts

Use the whole story "Heather and the Baby Kangaroo" on pages 6–10 to answer questions 8–12.

8 Why is paragraph 25 important to the story?

- F** Katie is able to spend time with Zach.
- G** Heather and Katie become real friends.
- H** Katie begins to see that Heather has changed.

9 What can the reader tell about Katie?

- A** Katie plans to do volunteer work somewhere else.
- B** Katie has not always liked the way Heather does things.
- C** Katie does not enjoy her time with her father and his family.

10 When does Katie begin to understand Heather's feelings about Zach?

- F** When Dad drops Heather and Katie off at the Kangaroo Center
- G** When Heather asks the doctor what to do
- H** When Heather greets Katie at the airport

11 Which is the best summary of the story?

- A** Katie visits her father and his family. Her stepsister Heather works with a kangaroo. Katie goes to work with Heather. They both learn the kangaroo is sick.
- B** Katie thinks that her stepsister Heather is not like other kids. Heather wears a strange hat and does volunteer work at the Kangaroo Center. Katie wonders why her stepsister is so different.
- C** Katie goes to visit her father and his family. She thinks that her stepsister Heather is strange. Then she sees her taking care of a baby kangaroo. Katie thinks Heather might be changing.

12 Which sentence from the story best shows that Heather takes her volunteer work seriously?

- F** *Heather asked, "Do you want to work with me today?"*
- G** *I was not happy, but I smiled anyway.*
- H** *I was surprised to see how upset she was.*



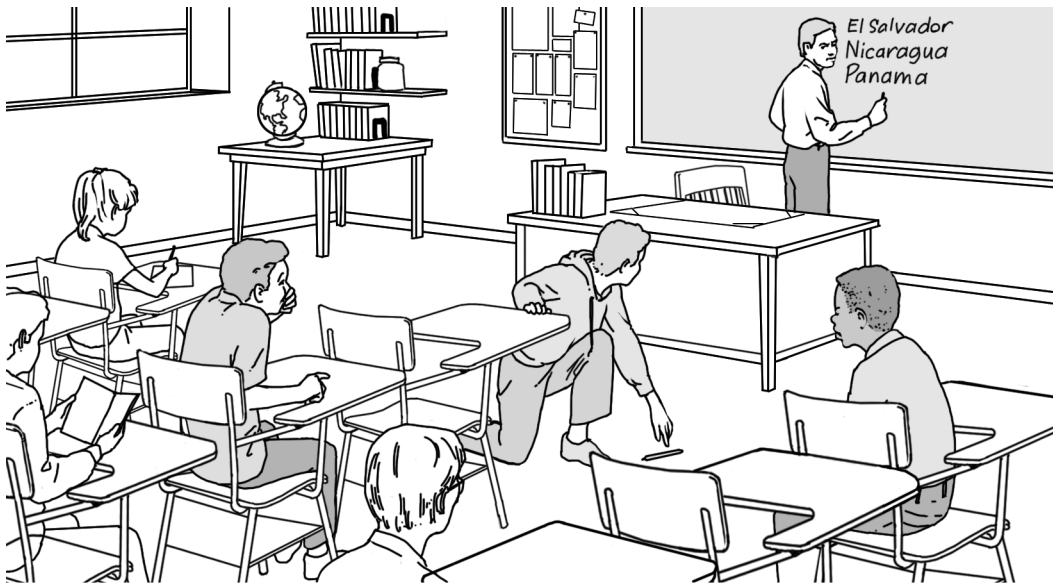


Best Friends?

This is a story about two boys, Rod and Bryan, who are best friends. Rod is wondering whether he still wants to be Bryan's friend because Bryan is being a bully to other students. In class Bryan tries to get a boy named Jordan into trouble. And later in the cafeteria, Bryan is mean to Jordan. Now read the story to find out how Rod reacts to Bryan's behavior. Then answer the questions that follow.

Best Friends?

- 1 Rod did not want to be friends with Bryan anymore. Rod and Bryan had been best friends for a long time. But now Bryan was being a bully to other kids. Rod did not like it.
- 2 One day at school Bryan sent Rod a note. "I can make Jordan do anything I tell him to do! Watch this."
- 3 Jordan's desk was in front of Bryan's. Bryan threw his pen on the floor when the teacher was not looking. The pen was next to Jordan's desk. Jordan's face turned red because kids were looking at him. But he did not turn around. Bryan snapped his fingers. Jordan still did not turn around. Bryan hit Jordan in the back. "Pick up that pen!" Bryan said. Then Jordan got up and grabbed the pen.



- 4 The teacher turned around. "What is going on, Jordan?"
- 5 Jordan's face turned even redder. He was never in trouble. "Bryan dropped his pen," Jordan said.

13 When does the teacher see Jordan?

- A** When Jordan gets up from his desk
- B** When Jordan passes notes in class
- C** When Jordan argues with Bryan

- 6 Bryan told the teacher, "I just dropped my pen." Bryan took the pen from Jordan. "Thanks," Bryan said with a grin.
- 7 Rod felt bad when he saw Jordan looking so sad. Bryan had picked on other kids before. Rod had always laughed. But Rod did not think Bryan was funny today.
- 8 At lunch Rod looked around the loud cafeteria. He walked slowly to a quiet part of the room. He saw Jordan. Jordan looked like an outcast. He was sitting alone and picking at his food. Rod sat down next to Jordan.
- 9 Bryan came into the cafeteria. He yelled, "Rod, why are you sitting over there with Jordan?" Bryan pushed other people to get to their table. Then he grabbed Jordan's milk. "You do not care if I take this, do you?" Bryan said.
- 10 "Give that back," Jordan said quietly.
- 11 "What is wrong, Jordan? Don't you like to share?" Bryan said. Then he took Jordan's cupcake.
- 12 Rod did not like that his best friend was a bully. "Give it back," Rod said.
- 13 Bryan drank Jordan's milk. Then he ate Jordan's cupcake. "It is too late now!" Bryan said and walked away.
- 14 Bryan had done the same thing to another kid last week. Rod had watched and laughed that time. This time Rod felt bad. He said, "I am sorry that Bryan is being a bully." Then Rod gave his milk and cupcake to Jordan.

14 Which words help the reader understand what outcast means in paragraph 8?

- F** *picking at*
- G** *loud cafeteria*
- H** *sitting alone*

Use the whole story "Best Friends?" on pages 16–18 to answer question 15.

15 Why is paragraph 1 important to the story?

- A** It shows that Rod has been friends with Bryan for a long time.
- B** It shows that Rod gets to do a lot of fun things.
- C** It shows that Rod will always be friends with Bryan.





Nothing to Fear

Jake and his best friend Ricky are at a fair. Ricky is excited to ride the Zipper. Jake thinks the Zipper is a very tall and scary ride. Jake pretends he wants to ride the Zipper because he does not want Ricky to make fun of him. While Jake is waiting to ride the Zipper, he sees how dangerous it looks. Then the class bully, Bo Reed, dares Jake to ride the Zipper. Jake worries that if he doesn't ride it, the kids at school will tease him. Read the story to find out what happens to Jake and Ricky at the fair. Then answer the questions that follow.

Nothing to Fear

- 1 Jake had not seen the Zipper in a year. He was scared as he stood by the sign. It said: *Must be 54 inches tall to ride.* No problem. He was two inches taller than he was last year. He knew he surpassed 54 inches now.
- 2 Jake looked at the tickets he had bought. He was still scared. He was scared of how tall the Zipper was. He was scared the Zipper would break. He was scared he would chicken out and not ride it.
- 3 "Jake, let's go!" yelled Ricky. "Hurry up! We are next."
- 4 Jake and Ricky had been best friends for a long time. Jake had never told Ricky that he was scared to ride the Zipper. They had dared each other to ride it every year.
- 5 When Jake was too short to ride the Zipper, he did not have to be scared. There was nothing to worry about. "They will not let me ride," Jake had said last year. "I am too short."

16 What can the reader tell about the Zipper?

- F** It is not a ride for small children.
- G** It is a free ride.
- H** It breaks down often.

17 What does the word surpassed mean in paragraph 1?

- A** Went beyond
- B** Became aware of
- C** Turned up

18 Before this year's fair, why was the Zipper's height rule important to Jake?

- F** He knew his friend Ricky was shorter than he was.
- G** He knew the rule was a reason not to ride it.
- H** He believed the rule would keep his friends away.

6 But this year Jake would have to ride the Zipper. He knew Ricky had been waiting a long time to ride it. Ricky had saved money all year from the job he had last summer. He used this money to buy tickets. Ricky had been in line to get his tickets before the fair had even opened.

7 Jake had made Ricky go on all of the other rides before the Zipper. "We should save the best for last," Jake had said. But now it was time to ride the Zipper.



8 Jake was really worried. "Go on, chicken," said a boy. It was Bo Reed. He was the school bully.

9 Jake said, "I am going to ride the Zipper. But you can go first."

10 Bo was older and bigger than Jake. "I have already ridden this baby ride," said Bo. "Go ahead, you chicken." He pushed past Jake and went to get pizza.

19 Why does Jake tell Bo to go first in paragraph 9?

- A** Jake is polite even to people who are not his friends.
- B** Jake does not want to ride the Zipper.
- C** Jake is waiting for Ricky to come up to him in line.

20 How can the reader tell that Ricky is a responsible person?

- F** Ricky earned money by working over the summer.
- G** Ricky told Jake that the other rides were dangerous.
- H** Ricky told others to stay away from Bo Reed.

21 Which sentence from the story shows that Ricky is excited about this day?

- A** *Ricky had been in line to get his tickets before the fair had even opened.*
- B** *Jake had made Ricky go on all of the other rides before the Zipper.*
- C** *He pushed past Jake and went to get pizza.*

- 11 Ricky said to Jake, "Do not worry about Bo. He is mean."
- 12 Ricky always made Jake feel better about things. Jake wanted to tell Ricky he was scared. But he did not want the other kids to laugh at him. Everyone rode the Zipper. Everyone would be talking about it. Jake said to himself, "Maybe it will rain, and the ride will have to close." But it was a sunny day.
- 13 Suddenly Ricky said, "We can go ride the Super Slide again if you want."
- 14 "What?" Jake asked. He was surprised that Ricky wanted to get out of the line.
- 15 "I do not feel like riding the Zipper anymore," Ricky said. "I want to race you down the slide. The loser has to buy pizza."
- 16 Jake did not understand. "But you have waited a long time to ride the Zipper. You were so excited," he said.
- 17 "Yes, I was. But now I have changed my mind. The Zipper is too scary. It makes loud grinding and squeaking sounds. And all the kids are yelling," Ricky said.
- 18 "Wow!" Jake said. "I am so glad. I do not want to ride it either. I thought you would make fun of me. We have always talked about riding the Zipper. But I am scared."
- 19 Both boys started to laugh. "I will not tell anyone because I am scared, too! It will be our secret," Ricky said.
- 20 The boys ran to the Super Slide. "What are friends for, anyway?" Jake thought. "There is nothing to be scared of now, but what will we do next year?"

22 What are paragraphs 17 through 19 mostly about?

- F** The boys waiting to get to the front of the line
- G** The boys bragging about their ride on the Zipper
- H** The boys deciding to stay away from the Zipper

23 When does Jake tell the truth about being scared?

- A** When he asks Ricky to buy pizza before they leave
- B** When he finds out what Ricky thinks about the Zipper
- C** When he finds out that Ricky does not enjoy the fair

24 What helps Ricky decide that he does not want to ride the Zipper?

- F** The noises the ride makes
- G** A fight with Bo Reed
- H** A chance to eat pizza

25 At the end of the story, what do Jake and Ricky have in common?

- A** They both have stood up to a bully.
- B** They both have reached a goal.
- C** They both share the same secret.

**Use the whole story “Nothing to Fear” on
pages 22–26 to answer questions 26–28.**

26 Why is the time that the boys spend in line important?

- F** It gives Ricky a chance to think about the ride.
- G** It shows that people have been hurt on the Zipper.
- H** It shows that the Super Slide is the boys’ first choice.

27 Which is the best summary of the story?

- A** Jake and Ricky are excited about going to the fair and enjoying the rides. They are having fun until they run into Bo Reed, the school bully. Bo finally leaves them alone. Then they decide to get in line to ride the Zipper.
- B** Jake and Ricky have waited for years to ride the Zipper at the fair. Jake is scared to ride it, but he does not want to tell Ricky. While the boys wait in line, Jake finds out that Ricky is also scared to ride the Zipper.
- C** Jake and Ricky dare each other to ride the Zipper, but Jake does not want to do it. After Jake runs into Bo Reed, he gets in line with Ricky anyway. Then Bo decides to get pizza.

28 What will Jake and Ricky probably do when it is time for the fair next year?

- F** Make a decision together about riding the Zipper
- G** Stay home so that they do not have to talk about the Zipper
- H** Refuse to get on any rides, including the Zipper





Just This Once

This is a story about a girl named Lindsay. One time Lindsay gives her friend Shannon her homework to copy. Lindsay promises not to tell anyone but does not want to lie about it either. Lindsay does not want them to get into trouble. Read to find out what happens with Lindsay and Shannon. Then answer the questions that follow.

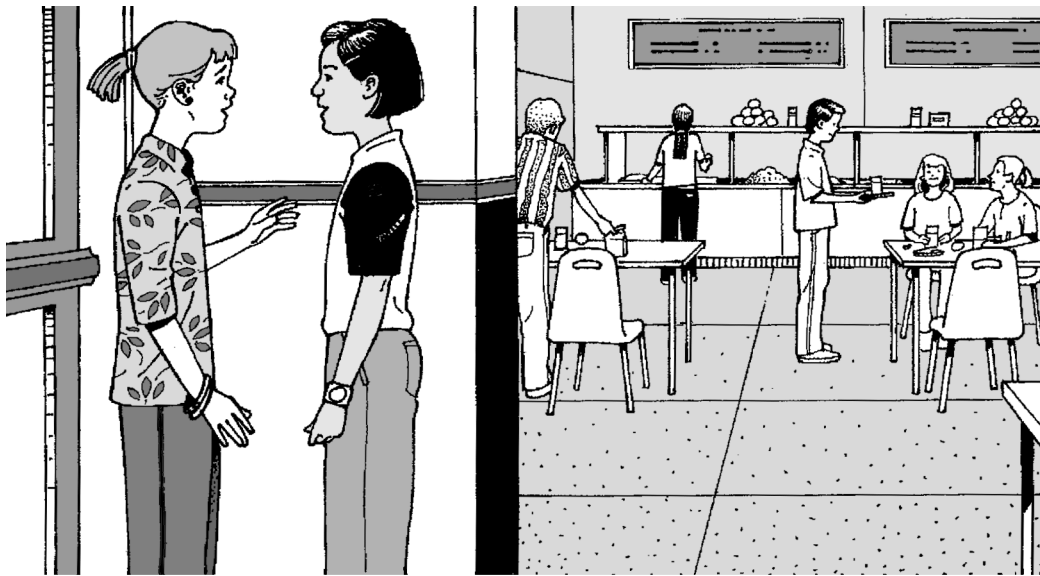
Just This Once

- 1 Lindsay gave her math homework to her friend Shannon. Lindsay said, "Just this once you can copy my math homework."
- 2 Shannon said, "Why do you think I need to copy your homework?"
- 3 Lindsay did not want to say that she had better grades than Shannon. Math was hard for Shannon. She had also missed three days of class last week. Lindsay started to say she was sorry. Then Shannon put the homework into her notebook.
- 4 "Just this once," Shannon said. "But promise not to tell anyone."

29 Why does Lindsay give Shannon her math homework to copy?

- A** Lindsay wants to show Shannon how much she enjoys sharing.
- B** Lindsay thinks Shannon will make a bad grade on her math homework.
- C** Lindsay has copied Shannon's math homework in the past.

- 5 Two days later the math teacher stopped Lindsay. "I want to see you after school," he said.
- 6 Lindsay knew she was in trouble. Maybe Shannon was in trouble, too. Lindsay looked for Shannon at lunch.
- 7 Lindsay had made a promise to Shannon. But wouldn't telling a lie be worse than breaking a promise? She found Shannon in the cafeteria. "We are in trouble," Lindsay said. "I think our teacher knows that you copied my homework."
- 8 "How could he know if we did not tell?" Shannon said. "Do not worry about it."



- 9 But all day Lindsay thought about the meeting with her teacher. She felt kind of sick.
- 10 At 3:30 Lindsay walked to her teacher's room. He said, "How many faces does a cube have?"
- 11 Lindsay had to think. "A cube has four faces."
- 12 "That is funny," the teacher said. "Shannon also thinks that a cube has four faces. But that is the wrong answer. A cube has six faces. One of you copied the other person's homework. This is very bad."

30 When does Lindsay realize she is in trouble?

- F** When Shannon does not seem to want to copy from her
- G** When the teacher asks to see her after school
- H** When Shannon does not listen to her at lunchtime

31 How does the math teacher know that Lindsay and Shannon cheated?

- A** He thinks that Lindsay looks guilty in his class.
- B** He sees that they have the same wrong answer.
- C** He sees that their homework is written in the same handwriting.

32 Which sentence best shows that Lindsay is worried about what she has done?

- F** *Two days later the math teacher stopped Lindsay.*
- G** *Lindsay had made a promise to Shannon.*
- H** *But all day Lindsay thought about the meeting with her teacher.*

- 13 Lindsay did not know what to say to her teacher. She did not want to tell the teacher about her promise to Shannon. But she also did not want to lie.
- 14 Then Shannon came into the room. "It was me! I copied Lindsay's homework."
- 15 Lindsay was surprised. "But I gave Shannon my homework to copy. We only did it once," she said. She did not want her friend to get into trouble.
- 16 The teacher gave both Lindsay and Shannon a zero anyway. Lindsay felt bad about cheating and for getting Shannon in trouble. Lindsay was upset about the zero. But she knew what she had done was wrong. Lindsay was glad that her friend had stood up for her. Shannon felt the same way.

33 What can the reader tell about Lindsay?

- A** She is not used to getting in trouble.
- B** She is the math teacher's favorite student.
- C** She does not care whether people like her.

Use the whole story "Just This Once" on pages 32–36 to answer question 34.

34 What lesson does Lindsay learn about cheating?

- F** It is never right to cheat.
- G** It is a way to get a better grade.
- H** It is okay to cheat.

**BE SURE ALL OF YOUR ANSWERS ARE RECORDED
ON THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.**



**TAKS-M GRADE 5
READING
MARCH 2009**